



## Kenjohn Wang and Sei Mei (Jacqueline) Wang Philanthropic Legacy Award

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In 1973, Kenjohn Wang and his wife Sei Mei (Jacqueline) Wang moved from Taiwan to California and began their journey as first-generation immigrants. Within six years, Mr. Wang had built a business empire that was worth tens of millions of dollars with only \$70,000 of startup capital.

During the 70s and 80s, the Taiwanese American (TA) community was an underrepresented group in American mainstream society. Mr. Wang took the initiative to create various professional networks among Taiwanese Americans to help promote academic, business, and political excellence. For example, in an effort to unite and foster the global TA community, he founded the Taiwan Hotel and Motel Association of Southern California and the Taiwanese-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Los Angeles.

Understanding the importance of being actively involved in mainstream society, Mr. Wang began hosting fundraising events during the 1980s for the Democratic Party presidential candidate, Edward Kennedy. This consequentially facilitated Congress to set a specific immigration quota of 20,000 for immigrants from Taiwan - the so-called green card lottery.

In 1982, Mr. & Mrs. Wang co-founded the Taiwanese-American Foundation and dedicated \$1,000,000 to the foundation. The foundation aimed to identify and recognize Taiwanese Americans who have achieved outstanding accomplishments within the fields of science, engineering, humanities, and social services. The foundation continues to have a profound impact on the development and social well-being of the Taiwanese American community. Furthermore, in 1998, Mr. & Mrs. Wang donated a 40,000 SQFT property to become home to the Taiwanese American community in Southern California – a home now known as the Taiwan Center of Greater Los Angeles.

Today, the “Philanthropic Legacy Award” is awarded to Mr. Kenjohn Wang and Mrs. Sei Mei Wang to recognize their significant contribution to the philanthropic sector within the Taiwanese American community. Their philanthropic efforts have made a long-lasting impact on many individuals, families, business owners, and professional associations within the Taiwanese American community.