



Gateway Korea Foundation



To all our friends and supporters:

This letter is my final tribute to my father, Dr. Chung C. Nahm, who, as a founding member of the Korean American Association in St Louis four decades ago, had only 2 things on his mind: PEACE AND THE EDUCATION OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Early last year, my father reminded me that it is my duty to share my Korean cultural heritage with my children, nieces, and nephews, all of whom were born in America. At that time, I did not realize that I will be the oldest person in my family in a short time. My father passed away early this year after suffering through 5 months of pancreatic cancer, the same cancer that took my mother over 20 years ago.

His life is a representation of the modern Korea; he was born under the occupation, became a medical doctor in between two wars, received advanced education in America soon after the Korean War, returned to Korea to educate future physicians then finally and permanently immigrated back to America with his entire family with the goal of pursuing American education for his children.

Although he was very thankful for all the blessings he received, he regretted that he did not have much opportunity to study Korean Culture and History because he completed his formal education during the Japanese occupation. As understanding culture and history is the backbone of my profession in architecture, I began an extensive journey of studying Korean culture and refreshing my knowledge of Korean History with my father in the past decade.

As if his own study were not enough, my father began to talk about educating future generations of Korean-Americans on their own Korean heritage. Also, as a naturalized American citizen, he believed that if Americans had a better understanding of other cultures, together we could bring more peace to the world.

In the summer of 2012, my father and several of his friends invited me to a meeting with the topic of preserving Korean heritage for future generations of Korean-Americans and the exchange of culture between America and Korea. They intended to establish an organization to carry out such a lofty mission and they elected me to head the effort.

As his cancer advanced, and even though he was too weak to do much, my father took delights in hearing about the progress of the movement. Establishing the organization became an important bright spot in the last 5 months of his life. Up to one week before his last day, he would ask me and others almost daily how our efforts to establish the organization were coming along- an organization for the future generations.

As we finally arrive at a point at which we can say we have a sound foundation for this enterprise, I would like to say to my father that the beauty and goodness of the Korean culture will be shared with many generations to come in the Heartland of America.

Respectfully,

Young Hie Nahm Kromm, A.I.A.  
Founding Chair, Board of Directors  
Gateway Korea Foundation