

## Remembering Peter Stanek

Peter Stanek passed away unexpectedly on October 18, 2014. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 3, 1937. After attending Saint Ignatius High School (but never graduating) he was admitted to the University of Chicago, where he earned a master's and a doctorate in mathematics (that's right no BS) in the summer of 1960 at the age of 22.

He met his wife Jean B. Chan while both were students of mathematics at the University of Chicago, and they got married in 1960. Pete enjoyed a successful career in teaching and working in systems analysis and telecommunications, earning several awards, including a patent. Among other hobbies, he had a lifelong love of flying and participating in ham radio competitions.

Peter was passionate about serving his community. He was a member of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). He was elected to serve as a national governor for the MAA, representing business, industry, and government (BIG). He served as chair of the MAA's BIG committee which advises the Board of Governors on BIG issues and he was a founding member of the BIG SIGMAA.

Greg Coxson, current vice chair for membership of the BIG SIGMAA had this to say on Peter's behalf: *"Peter Stanek was a solid supporter of BIG SIGMAA. You could often find him in the room for the contributed paper sessions. He and I shared a common background in defense electronics. I always appreciated that at my first JMM, when I was feeling quite out of place, he invited me to join him for coffee. After that, I always hoped to bump into him at JMM. He had a wonderful smile and a gentle, wry delivery when he spoke."*

Locally, he was the Marin Chinese Cultural Association Treasurer, and he was a long-time

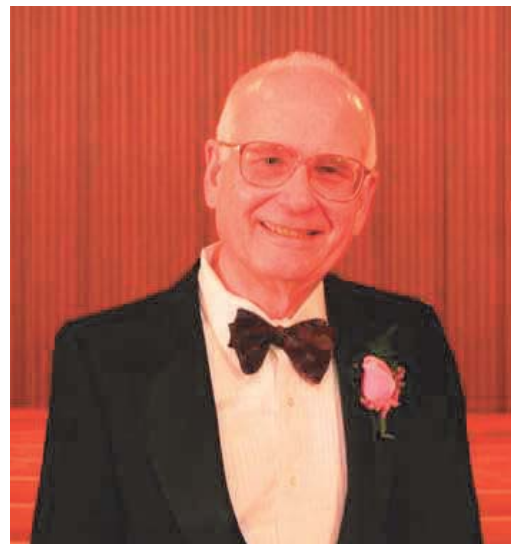
board member of the Asian Scholarship Fund. In addition, he participated in and supported the Asian American Alliance of Marin, since its founding over 20 years ago.

After his retirement, Peter began a more focused study of the Mandarin language and studied the history of the Pacific War. He became an unshakable force in seeking redress for millions of victims and survivors of the massive and barbaric crimes against humanity by the Imperial forces of Japan in the Asia Pacific War during 1931-1945.

Peter is survived by his beloved wife, son, daughter-in-law, daughter, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, aunt, nieces, nephews, cousins, and numerous dear friends.

Peter, a former Community Education instructor teaching "Pacific War History" at the College of Marin, was inducted posthumously to the inaugural Asian American Alliance Marin Hall of Fame on November 14, 2014. He also received a proclamation for his quest for justice from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

A scholarship, in memory of Peter Stanek, is being established in the Asian Scholarship Fund of the Marin Community Foundation.



**Peter Stanek (1937-2014)**