

Following Robert's death, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association-DC included the following article in their Fall 2006 newsletter (Vol. XVI, No. 4).

APABA-DC, the Washington, DC community, and the family of APABA-DC President-Elect Robert Eric Wone experienced a tragic loss on August 3, 2006 when Robert was killed by an unknown person. With Robert's terrible passing, we have all lost a leader of our community, a friend to many, and one of the truly bright souls who seemingly only exist to make the lives of others a little bit better.

To try and sum up the whole of someone who lived such a full life and did more for the community in which he lived than most three people put together would be a grave disservice to the person. Robert's favorite Bible verse is found in Luke 12:48: "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required." He truly believed that it was his duty to give more than he received in this world, and the way he lived his life is a testament to that belief. Not only had Robert served on the APABA-DC Board, but he had also served on the executive board of the APABA Educational Fund prior to that. He has been the General Counsel of the Organization of Chinese Americans; General Counsel for the Museum of Chinese in the Americas; was active with his alma mater, the College of William and Mary; was active in the American Bar Association; and served on Virginia Governor Mark Warner's Commission on Community and National Service. Many other community service organizations were the beneficiaries of Robert's selflessness and generosity of spirit.

And true to form, Robert conducted most of these acts of giving in the quiet, self-effacing manner that those close to him had come to expect. Many within the APABA-DC Board had no knowledge of the extent of Robert's community service activities outside of the organization, but when they came to light, few were surprised. It was somehow precisely Robert's style to so modestly go about affecting the lives of those around him in a positive fashion without expecting even a kind word in return. In the days following Robert's passing and his funeral, many have spoken glowingly about him.

Perhaps it's fitting, given Robert's penchant for silent good deeds, that one of the most touching remembrances of him came from someone he didn't even know, who posted anonymously on the Internet: "Robert was a giant among men," a man wrote, "whose worst was better than most people's best." The comment was written by someone whose wife had known Robert and had accompanied her to Robert's funeral.

APABA-DC will miss Robert Wone terribly. We grieve with his wife Kathy, his parents, William and Aimee Won; his brother, Andrew; Kathy's parents Myoung and Jing Yu; Kathy's brother, John; and Robert's grandmother, Lucy New. The community and the world is poorer for his passing. We have lost one of our very best. Rest in peace.

*I live for those who love me,  
For those who know me true,  
For the heaven that smiles above me,  
And awaits my spirit, too;  
For the cause that lacks assistance,  
For the wrong that needs resistance,*

*For the future in the distance,  
And the good that I can do.*  
-- George Linnaeus Banks