



## Alan Ko

December 27, 1938 - October 15, 2022

Alan Ko was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to many who was deeply respected and admired for his kindness and altruistic character. Alan of Maryland Heights passed away peacefully at home on October 15, 2022, at the age of 83, after a brief and courageous battle against cancer. He was surrounded by loved ones who greatly adored him and were by his side during his last days, as they were throughout his life.

Alan was born on December 27, 1938, in Sun Wui, Guangdong, China to father Kai Cheong Ko and mother Hee Chan Ko, at a time of great turmoil. He was the fifth of seven children. During his childhood, he survived tremendous struggle due to civil war and famine. At the age of 12, he played the role of caregiver and scavenged for food for his family to survive. After completing primary school at the age of 17, he was fortunately granted refuge to Hong Kong.

Alan arrived in Hong Kong in August of 1956, where he took a number of odd jobs to make a living. Although he did not consider himself a good student during his formative years in China, education was something he held in the highest regard and he enrolled in night classes in hopes of finding better opportunities.

In 1972, Alan attended a friend's wedding where we met the love of his life,

Cindy Lam. They were married on February 26, 1976 and subsequently had two sons, Brian and Michael. The couple found great inspiration from the story of Meng Yu, an exemplary female figure in Chinese culture and the mother of the great philosopher, Mencius. Mencius's widowed mother moved three times in order to find a proper environment to raise her son. Both Brian and Michael's Chinese names incorporate a variation of "Meng" within.

On August 23, 1982, the family of four moved to the US to pursue the "American Dream" for a better life. As with many first-generation immigrants, he faced numerous hardships and sacrifices to ensure his family's needs were met, before his own. Nonetheless, he was proud to be in this "country of opportunity" so much so, the entire family was sworn in to be naturalized citizens on June 1, 1990. He was proud to be a Chinese American.

In 2013, Alan was diagnosed with end stage chronic kidney disease, requiring frequent dialysis treatments and leading to a decline in his health. Miraculously, he received a donor kidney on November 6, 2017, granting him more time to watch his four grandchildren grow to call him Yeh Yeh.

Alan will always be remembered as an altruistic and kind person who loved to cook and spend time with family. He far exceeded his own expectations of fate by breaking out of poverty and achieving the American dream; all from hard work and perseverance. His legacy will live on through the lives he touched.

Alan is survived by his wife Cindy; two sons Brian (Jessie) and Michael (Alison); four grandchildren Alexander, Camilla, Alaia and Oliver; two brothers Don Ko and Shea Gu Gao; and one sister Susan Chan.

An open service visitation is planned for Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from 10 am to noon. The visitation will be held at Valhalla Funeral Chapel on 7600 St. Charles Rock Road St. Louis, MO. All are invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, you may make memorial donations to the American Kidney Foundation on his behalf.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Valhalla Cemetery  
7600 St Charles Rock Road  
St Louis, MO 63133

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Alan Ko.*



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October 24, 2022 at 04:22 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alan Ko.*



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October 24, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Cindy, Brian, Michael, and Families,*

*Please accept our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies. Uncle Alan will be dearly missed by all of us. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.*

*John & Peggy Wang and family*

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**John Wang** - October 21, 2022 at 06:20 PM

RZ

“ Roger Gao & Sarah Zhang purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Alan Ko.



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**Roger Gao & Sarah Zhang** - October 20, 2022 at 08:06 PM

BA

“ I had wonderful times with Uncle Alan during my trips to Hong Kong . He showed me the city and ate fabulous and delicious foods. I will miss him.  
My deepest condolences to Aunt Cindy , Brian, Michael and their families. Barry

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**Barry** - October 20, 2022 at 12:16 PM

TF

“ The Mathews Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Alan Ko.



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**The Mathews Family** - October 20, 2022 at 02:33 AM