



## **WING FONG (Class of 1946)**

As an immigrant from Canton, China, Wing Fong first came to Las Vegas in 1939 at the age of 13. He attended the third grade in Las Vegas at the Fifth Street Elementary School where he worked hard to catch up. He skipped several grades in order to graduate with his classmates from Las Vegas High School in 1946.

Wing attended Woodbury College in California, where he earned a Business Administration degree in three years, and met his future wife, Lilly Hing. Wing and Lilly married in 1950 and have two children, Kenneth and Susan, who are both UNLV graduates.

Lilly made Las Vegas history as the first Chinese-American elementary school teacher in the city and as the first Chinese-American to sit on the Nevada State Board of Regents. She worked tirelessly for education during her 52 years in Las Vegas. She and her husband, Wing Fong, were also important in the Las Vegas business community.

As a teen, Wing worked with relatives who owned the former Silver Cafe, which could have led to the founding of Fong's Garden Chinese Restaurant, one of the oldest restaurants in Las Vegas. He was such an astute business man, he eventually helped found the Nevada State Bank. He was known as a great philanthropist and champion of minority rights.

Wing and Lilly were named Distinguished Nevadans in 1998. The Fong's long-standing support of excellence in higher education is marked by philanthropy and leadership. Wing passed away in May of 2005 at the age of 79.

The Lilly and Wing Fong Elementary School in Las Vegas was named in their honor.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.  
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact me at [Dave@lvhsaa.com](mailto:Dave@lvhsaa.com)

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