

Dear Chinese Language Teachers Association, Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools, University of Hawaii at Manoa Faculty and numerous esteemed colleagues, former students and friends of Tao-Chung Yao:

On behalf of the Yao family, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you all. Your efforts and actions to memorialize, honor and pay tribute to my Father's life, career and professional contributions has truly moved our family. My Father was not one who liked to impose on others but I know that he would be tremendously grateful and honored, yet deeply humbled, by all your actions. While my Father absolutely had a successful and impressive career, in spite of all his successes, he always remained an incredibly and resolutely humble man. He was a man of simplicity, humility, diligence and congeniality. He was not one for pomp and circumstance. While our family could have assembled a memorial service in his honor inviting all of you—his dear colleagues, longtime friends, and former students from around the world—such was not his wishes. However, what has resulted, borne out of indelible memories, enriching personal experiences and immeasurable working relationships with my Father, has been and will have a farther reaching, longer lasting, and more profound impact. It is rather amazing that in spite of my Father's desire to depart this earth modestly, your feelings for him as well as your recognition of his life's work and his devotion to your shared professional sphere would not go unnoticed. I know that he feels our adoration. And while his passing continues to bring much sadness to our family, we are comforted in knowing that through your efforts Tao-Chung Yao's work and legacy will brilliantly live on. On his behalf, thank you.