Wayman C Wing, died of natural causes, peacefully in his sleep at the age of 97, on April 29, 2020. He was the loving husband of Eugenia (“Beah”) Chen, the father of Sandra and Roger Wing, favorite uncle to 29 nieces and nephews, and a renowned structural engineer and principal of Wayman C Wing, Consulting Engineers in New York for 60 years. He was affectionately called, “Way”, “Uncle Way”, or “Daddy-O” by his children, and alternately as “the Boss”, “the Captain”, or “the King.”

The eldest of 6 children, he was born to Chinese immigrant parents, Wong Gin and Mah Shee Wing in Evanston, Wyoming on February 22, 1923. He was the 4th generation of his Chinese ancestors to come to America and the first to be born in the United States. His grounded upbringing in a small town and appreciation of family, friends, teachers, and mentors served as the foundation for his work ethic and future successes. He never forgot any of the people who helped him along the way. His early successes began in high school as a star on the baseball, basketball and football teams. As a scholar, he earned a full scholarship at the University of Wyoming (UW).

World War II interrupted his college education and he enlisted in the Army Air Corps (now known as the Air Force) and rose to the level of Captain. Initially, he was sent to NYU to become a meteorologist. Afterwards, he was assigned to the North Atlantic, where he flew in B-25 weather recon planes to observe changes in the atmospheric weather to guide merchant cargo ships and aircraft carrying supplies to Europe, as well as searching for German submarines. He was later trained to be an air traffic controller and served in the Azores off the coast of Portugal.

After WWII, Wayman returned to UW to complete his degree in Civil Engineering and then went on to achieve a master’s degree at Stanford University. After graduation he went on a final “bachelor’s fling” driving cross country with his best friend JC Timm to the “Big Apple”. It was in NYC that he met the love of his life, Beah, at a New Year’s Eve party. They were married 9 months later, in September 1949, and remained in New York until his death.

In 1947 he began his first professional job as an engineer with Seelye, Stevenson, Value & Knecht, a consulting engineer firm in NYC. After 12 years, in 1959, Wayman made the decision to open his own firm, Wayman Wing, Consulting Engineers on the 19th Floor of the Hotel Pennsylvania at 15 Penn Plaza, across from Penn Station in New York. He continued to be its principal until 2020. The motto of his firm was “Service is our Business with Engineering Imagination”. It became very successful and at its peak, had a staff of 35. The firm did structural designs for hotels, schools, office buildings, shopping centers, civic buildings, housing projects and churches all over the world. Some of his firm’s better known projects included Intercontinental hotels in Jerusalem (now the King David Hotel), Cairo, Egypt, and Karachi, Pakistan, as well as consultations on the Meridien Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the Macuto Sheraton Hotel in Caracas, Venezuela. When trade was opened to China in 1970, Wayman Wing, Consulting Engineers was the first firm from the United States invited to build there and he was involved in the planning and design of the Great Wall Hotel in Beijing. Domestically, his firm designed and/or consulted on the One, Two and Three State Street Complex in Boston, the Washington DC Hilton, the Rye Town and Tarrytown Hilton Hotels in New York, the San Francisco Hilton, the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles, the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, the Westchester County Courthouse Complex in White Plains, New York, as well as multiple hotels in Hawaii, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

In 2007, he designed and built a Chinese Gazebo and Garden for the Town of Evanston in its downtown historic park, in appreciation to the citizens of Evanston for the deep personal relationships established with the Wing family. Though this project was the smallest during his career, it was the one he was most proud of. He considered it his crowning achievement, ranking higher than any of the
prominent hotels and office buildings that his firm had built as it brought him the greatest personal satisfaction.

In 1968, Wayman won the National Engineering Award for his innovative earthquake resistant structural design of the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles. In 1970, Wayman received the New York Engineer of the Year Award, and in 1999, he was inducted into the University of Wyoming’s Hall of Fame. He has also been chosen to be archived in the American Heritage Center at the same university. In 2020, he was nominated to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in WWII. Wayman is predeceased by his loving wife, Beah (2013) and son, Roger (1997) who was an adventurous white water river rafter and an accomplished custom home builder, a younger brother, Will, and 3 younger sisters (Lil, Lillian, and Lilac.) He is survived by his daughter, Sandra (“Sandy”, a veterinarian in New Hampshire, a sister (Lelia), 19 nieces and nephews, and “adopted” family members, his personal assistants and caregivers, Ursula and Gala.

Wayman will be long remembered for his generosity to friends, family and community, his commitment to and loyal love of family (both immediate and extended), his strong work ethic and high standards that he set for himself and those that surrounded him. A smile will be brought to the faces of all that knew his playful sense of humor and repertoire of jokes that he loved to tell (and retell), and favorite list of idioms like “taking the bull by the horns”, as well as those that were mis-spoken with a “twist”, like “it’s water “OVER” the bridge” or “water “UNDER the dam” and “it’s SIX to one, 16 to another.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no formal funeral service held. We are hopeful that there will be an opportunity to have a Celebration of his Life in the future. His ashes will be spread amongst all the special places that were landmarks in his life.

If you wish to express your condolences or have a fond memory to share regarding Wayman, please send it to Sandy Wing at 30 Point Breeze Road, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894 or email to jakewing@metrocast.net. If so inclined to make a donation in Wayman’s name, he would be pleased to have them made to the University of Wyoming Foundation – College of Engineering, 222 S 2nd Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming 82070, or the Wyoming Community Foundation (directed towards the City of Evanston Urban Renewal, Uinta County Senior Center, Uinta County School District or the Wong Gin Wing Family Scholarship), 1472 N 5th St, Suite 201, Laramie, Wyoming 82072.