

Hsi Wen “Wah” Cheng

June 28, 1958 ~ May 29, 2025

Hsi Wen “Wah” Cheng, beloved brother, father, uncle, and friend, passed away unexpectedly on May 29, 2025, in Holladay, Utah, at the age of 66. Wah was born on June 28, 1958, in Hanoi, Vietnam, to Kinh Thien Trinh and Ngoc Tu Hong.

From a young age, Wah was marked by resilience and devotion to family. As a boy in Vietnam, he helped support his family by selling tea on the streets after school. He was considered one of the smartest students in his class. In 1978, Wah bravely escaped Vietnam, finding refuge in Hong Kong until he immigrated to the United States in 1980. From humble beginnings, he never forgot his roots and lived with deep gratitude for the life he built in America.

Wah was known for his big, outgoing personality and his ability to connect with anyone he met. Charismatic, kind, and endlessly patient, he was often called “the nicest person ever” and truly was the life of every party. He loved people, he loved stories, and he loved good food—especially when shared with family.

Wah was the fun uncle, the midnight snack buddy, the spontaneous chauffeur, and the ever-patient toy store chaperone. He surprised kids one Christmas by dressing up as Santa, and took joy in buying the coolest McDonald’s toys for his daughter. Grocery store run-ins would turn into sweet family outings—always ending with a shared scoop of ice cream.

He had a passion for cooking, fishing, and watching sports—especially on weekend trips to Wendover. He loved blackjack, never missing a chance to say, “Hit me baby one more time,” and relished the slow reveal of each card. “You can’t win if you don’t try,” he would often say, especially when buying a lottery ticket. He always bet on the underdog. He never stopped learning. In his 50s, he proudly attended free computer classes at the library and celebrated every time his typing speed improved. He loved trying new foods and attempted to recreate them at home. He carried on Grandma’s tradition of bringing family together and making pho for the family on Sundays.

Wah was open-minded, young at heart, curious, and a true free spirit. He was resourceful, creative, and never wasted an opportunity to find ways to give items a second purpose. He believed that if you took care of your things, you wouldn’t need to replace them. He lived simply but gave generously. Whether taking the kids on food deliveries and letting them keep the tips, or picking up Grandma from work at 12:30 AM and turning it into a late-night ramen adventure, Wah made everyday moments feel magical.

Wah will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to family, his joyful presence, and his radiant smile. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, humility, and laughter that will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his daughter, Silvia Hsu Cheng. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kinh Thien Trinh and Ngoc Tu Hong.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, beginning at 11:00 AM at Larkin Mortuary, 260 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

Wah lived life with a smile and a big heart—please join us in remembering him with stories, warmth, and the spirit of dreaming big.