

In Celebration of the Life of Il Yong Heo
Ernest Patton
June 25, 2018



1938-2018

Seonghwa Ceremony

Sunday, June 24 - 4:00 PM

NOVA Family Church 9461-A Silver King Court Fairfax, VA 22031



Wonjeon Service

Tuesday, June 26 - 12:00 PM

Fort Lincoln Funeral Home
3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood, MD 20722

Reception at The Washington Times

3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

The Victorious Life of

Il Yong HEO

Mr. Il Yong Heo, age 80, ascended peacefully on Sunday, June 17, 2018, at Rockville, MD. He was born in Namwon, South Korea, a city three hours southwest of Seoul and famous as the site of a Korean folk story (Chunhyang) dating back 400 years ago.

Raised by his parents and grandparents, who were devout Christians, Mr. Heo has 9 siblings. Two have passed away; the others are in good health and living in Korea. Mr. Heo attended school until junior high school and then was educated by private tutor, which was the tradition at that time. During his early years, the country was under Japanese rule. To avoid persecution, the family dug a deep hole under the home and hid for months at a time.

In 1973, when he was 35 years old, Mr. Heo immigrated to the United States. He found work as an auto mechanic and lived in Rockville, Md. Within a short time he was able to bring his wife, Jung Ae and their six children, 3 sons and 3 daughters.

The kids all grew up in Rockville and attended elementary school and Rockville High School. Mr. Heo worked as a mechanic and handyman, with a wide range of skills, both interior and exterior. The family grew up enjoying both cultures, Korean and Western. Mr. Heo loved fishing and crabbing along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay or out fishing on a boat with his son. The family regularly went to Sandy Point State Park at the western end of the Bay Bridge to enjoy the beaches, swimming and the fireworks display on the fourth of July. Another hobby that he enjoyed was landscaping. He would often be seen up in the trees caring and maintaining the branches even at an elder age. Mrs. Heo was a homemaker and raised the kids while Mr. Heo took on home improvement jobs wherever and whenever he could.

In 1982, he met Mrs. Im, an elder Korean member who introduced him to the Unification Church. Mr. Heo was active in the church's Korean Evangelical Association (KEA). He and Mrs. Heo attended services regularly and supported the church by lending his unique gifts to maintain and upkeep the church buildings and home remodeling jobs for members.

Mr. Heo will always be remembered for his cheerful demeanor, bear hugs, and hearty greetings of "annyeonghaseyo" to everyone as soon as he entered the church. He will be remembered by his family and friends as being a kind and friendly person who enjoyed people. He always had a gracious and compassionate heart and nature.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jung Ae and 6 children: Hwan, Kyung Ja, Young Chul, Kyung Sook, Hyang Sook and Hyo Joon.