

## SPEECH GIVEN BY HAN-LI MEI AT MEMORIAL SERVICE 24th January 2014

Self belief, determination, perseverance for your goals and above all, compassion for those you meet along the short journey of life. These were just a few of the fundamental traits my father would in grain into my character as he raised me from a tender age. Now, as man, and with immense sadness with his passing, do I really appreciate the fullest extent all his words of wisdom and the mental strength he has rubbed off onto me.

I'm sure many of you regarded my Dad as an inspiring, optimistic, jovial figure and genuine friend. His ability to engage with people from all generations, cultures and backgrounds was a rare and special characteristic that came naturally to him. He had the capacity to arouse huge enthusiasm and a hunger for success from casual conversation, not only for myself, but a number of my closest friends. He was in many positive ways, a father figure to us all.

My father recently told me 'son, always wish the best for people and their well-being, as life will go on... long after we are gone and all that should be remembered is our positive impact on the Earth and others'. I feel those words have such relevance now, with all those whom have been touched by his good will and caring nature, gathered here today to say farewell to such an influential and instrumental human being.

Over the past 10 years or so, as I moved to the East, he would often tell me that I was somewhat like an inverse reflection of himself as a young man seeking his dreams in the West, adapting to a brand new culture, language and way of life. His selfless encouragement and support for my new path was nothing short of incredible and I will forever appreciate the foundation of confidence he instilled in me and the stepping stones to being a greater person.

Hearing the tragic news of my father's sudden death a little under 3 weeks ago, I am still rocked to the core. My captain, my mentor and parental guide has gone. But although his physical existence has passed, I can feel his spiritual energy growing stronger within me and the eerie silence of his absence is filled with the colourful memories he has gifted us. The magnitude of his life, his legacy and ultimately his love will forever remain in our hearts and his positive virtues will transpire to my future children. A professor, loving husband or great friend... I'm just blessed to be able to call you simply 'Dad'.