

Milestones

They are very much loved and respected by members of the University and will be greatly missed.



Sir Oswald Victor Cheung 張奧偉爵士 (HonLLD) passed away on December 10, 2003, at the age of 81.

In 1938, at the extraordinary young age of sixteen, Sir Oswald was admitted to the University with King Edward VII scholarship. In 1941 when the war broke out, he left Hong Kong and later studied in the United Kingdom. He was called to the Bar in Hong Kong in 1952 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1965. Apart from being an eminent and well-respected barrister, he was also a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils in the 1970s and 1980s and made tremendous contribution to public service. He was a member of the University Council and Court and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa by the University on 1979. He was knighted in 1987.

"He was one of the few life members of the Hong Kong Bar. ... I am sure that those old enough to have had fortunate of seeing him in action would all agree that he was a very good lawyer and an extremely powerful advocate. ... He was always fair to his opponents and courteous to the court. He was never repetitive and was always concise and to the point. In short he was the model of an outstanding barrister."

Eulogy by Mr Edward Chan 陳景生 (LLB 1972)

"His education was interrupted by the War. But in adversity one sees the true character of a man. Even amidst the deprivation of war, he was always ready to lend a helping hand. Thus, Rayson Huang had no doubt that it was because of Ossie that Ossie's father gave him money to support his research project during the War. Another friend, Clifford Matthews wrote about a postcard which Ossie managed to get to him over the barbed wire of the concentration camp and a gift of almon. The postcard was signed with a fictitious name "Jimmy Victor. ... In public service, Ossie was known for his dedication and fearless integrity. To him, public service always came first. Even at the expense of his profession. ... He took his duty seriously but wore the honour lightly."

Eulogy by Mr Robert Tang 鄧國楨

" Hong Kong is fortunate to have been blessed with such a talented and dutiful son. ...Ossie enjoyed good food and fine wines... However, he was not just a gourmet. On more than one occasion in Hong Kong, I noticed that he would choose a restaurant that was not up to par to his usual standards. I asked him the reason for such choices and his answer was that some restaurants needed the business more than others. His compassion for others was apparent even in such small decisions."

Eulogy by Dr Chiu Shin-chak 趙善策 (MBBS 1958)



In 1998, Sir Oswald (back left) and several war time alumni edited and produced a book entitled "Dispersal and Renewal: Hong Kong University During the War Years". As a Morrisonian he gave unrelenting support to the campaign for the rebuilding of Morrison Hall.