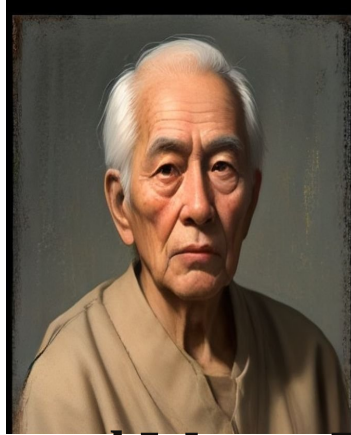




Leonard Wayne Thao

May 25, 1939 - August 16, 2026

Washington, District of Columbia

Leonard Wayne Thao, 87, of Washington, died on August 16, 2026. Born on May 25, 1939 and raised among Hmong-American manners that never needed a speech. From the start, he treated promises like tools: keep them sharp, do not lend them lightly.

She diced mornings into banquet readiness before guests woke. A prep knife honed every dawn was her only vanity. Colleagues still mention a prep knife honed every dawn.

He married Sandra in 1964. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two sons through public schools and ordinary weather. After Sandra died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who knew every child's name on the block. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Washington was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The Sunday call still has a time slot in the house.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A memorial gathering in Washington with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

NN-OBIT-2026-C669

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