https://www.guampdn.com/news/dedicated-public-servant-yap-gov-charles-sigfred-chieng-dead-at-70-guam-extends-condolences/article_0ff1d04e-1c19-41bb-8369-5d1b76707411.html

'Dedicated public servant': Yap Gov. Charles Sigfred Chieng dead at 70, Guam extends condolences

By Haidee Eugenio Gilbert Pacific Daily News
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Yap Gov. Charles Sigfred Chieng, center, described as a “dedicated public servant” and who “served with a quiet strength,” died at th until his passing.

Office of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia

Yap Gov. Charles Sigfred Chieng, described as a “dedicated public servant” and who “served with a quiet strength,” died at the age of 70.

Chieng dedicated more than three decades of his life to public service, including as a lawmaker and governor, until his passing.

He will be laid to rest in his home state of Yap. He died on May 29 in Oklahoma, or May 28, Yap time.

Guam Speaker Frank Blas Jr. on Tuesday extended condolences on behalf of the 38th Guam Legislature and the people of Guam to Chieng’s family and the people of Yap.

“Governor Chieng was a dedicated public servant and a respected leader whose contributions to the progress and development of Yap State will be remembered with great admiration,” Blas said in a statement.

Chieng was the 9th governor of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia until his death.

FSM President Wesley Simina, in a statement, declared a national period of mourning and ordered the FSM national flag to be flown at half-mast in Chieng’s honor.

“Governor Chieng was not only a dedicated leader and principled public servant, he was also a dear friend,” Simina said. “His passion and love for Yap was undeniable. He led with his heart and served with a quiet strength that was formidable. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched and the institutions he helped strengthen.”

Chieng studied political science at the University of Guam in 1974.

He later transferred to the University of Incarnate Word in Texas, earning dual bachelor’s degrees in political science and secondary education. He completed his master’s in urban and regional planning at the University of the District of Columbia.

Chieng's early career was in Washington, D.C., where he gained invaluable experience during a two-year internship with the D.C. government. This was followed by 12 years in leadership roles in the private sector.

After more than 20 years abroad, Chieng returned home and in 1994, served as administrator of automatic data processing for the FSM Department of Finance.

Chieng was elected to the Yap State Legislature in 2003, and served for 12 years. He retired in 2015. He ran successfully for governor of Yap in 2023, and served the post until his final breath.

"His unwavering commitment to the welfare of his people, his vision for a better future, and his legacy of service have left an indelible mark not only on Yap but on the entire Micronesian region," Blas said.

In this time of mourning, the speaker said, Guam stands in solidarity with the people of Yap.

"We join in honoring the memory of a man who served with dignity, wisdom, and courage. May his family find comfort in knowing that his life's work continues to inspire and uplift," Blas added.

A state funeral will be held in Yap, according to the FSM president's office.

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