**REMARKS AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF DR. CHEN-CHUNG LIN, 1927-2018**

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Good morning! My name is Chungchin Chen from Albany, New York. When Tom called me last Saturday and asked me if I could say a few words at the memorial service of his father? I hesitated at first, then I realized it would be a great honor for me to give a tribute to a good friend I respect so much. So, I accepted the invitation. I miss him deeply and regret greatly for not being able to see him last Sunday afternoon as originally planned. Now I want to say goodbye to him as he enters the spiritual world.

First of all, we want to extend our deepest sympathy and condolence to the family of Prof. Lin. Our hearts and prayer are with them for the loss of their loved one. We gather here this morning, instead of mourning the passing of Prof. Lin as he would forbid us to do so, we are here to celebrate his abundant life.

Many of you might be surprised to learn that I met Prof. Lin for the first time only about 9 years ago at the Fair Lawn Community Church (新澤西台灣歸正教會). But we seemed to treat each other like old friends (一見如故). Our friendship flourished quickly; because we shared the common feeling of love and concern over our homeland, Taiwan. We also cherished the freedom and democracy of our adopted country, the United States of America. He and I belong to the same generation that has endured the turbulent time in Taiwan’s history over the past 80 some years. We shared the similar Taiwanese cultural experience and the American ways of life as immigrants.

I recall that In October 2013, Prof. Lin and Mrs. Lin and their daughter Cathy and son Victor spent their vacation in Upstate New York. I had the honor of serving as their tour guide to the magnificent New York State Capitol in Albany where I still live. I was happy to learn that they had a great time then.

Prof. Lin was a very warm and modest person, a loving and caring husband and father and grandfather as we all knew. He will be remembered as an accomplished scientist and engineer, a distinguished teacher and educator, and a scientific theologist. Well, in fact he gave me some of the books he wrote on Christianity based on scientific analyses. I have to admit that they are a little hard for me to comprehend.

Over his extensive career as a teacher and educator for almost 50 years, he had students spreading over many parts of the world (桃梨滿天下 ). Above all, he was eager to help young people. I have the fact to prove it. One of my younger good friends Dr. Kung-Hwa Wei (韋光華), is one of Prof. Lin’s students and proteges (得意門生和提拔的後進). He is now the Dean of the College of Engineering, the National Chiao-Tung University in Taiwan (國立交通大學工學院院長). Over the phone last Tuesday, he told me he would had come to the U. S. from Taiwan to attend the funeral of Prof. Lin if the funeral was held 2 weeks later. So, in his absence, he sent a flower set. He emailed me a brief eulogy yesterday and asked me to read today on his behalf. Let me read part of what he wrote:………. In fact, Prof. Lin established the Department of Material Science & Engineering and recommended Dr. Wei for a faculty position in the department when Wei returned to Taiwan from the U. S. 30s years ago.

A few months ago, when we sat on the same table for lunch after the Sunday church service, I noticed he carried a small oxygen tank with him, his voice was a little bit weaker. But he still smiled and talked as usual without any sign of despair and fear. With strong faith in God, he was calm and graceful about his aging body and his falling health condition. He felt completely contented with his life.

As he said during the 90th birthday dinner party in his honor last November attended by many of us, “Before I wanted healthiness and longevity, now I just need Lord Christ, and I can laugh at the last point of life to come.” (從前我要的是健康又長壽，現今只有救主基督。但願為人生終點的來臨而歡喜。) These were his words of farewell to all of us almost 10 months ago at that dinner party: “My long-time friends! I am really old now. I am so thankful for your fellowship and friendship which have made my old age life so abundant.”

Now, as closing of my remarks, let’s bid our farewell to him: “Our dear Prof. Lin, bless you in eternal peace, in the care and comfort of the Lord!”

Thank all of you for your listening and patience.

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