

At the DPRA picnic the Museum presented an award to Patty Jung below is a copy of the award speech given by Margaret Chavez followed by the Acceptance speech from Patty

**Patty Jung Award speech
given by Margaret Chavez**

Patty was sworn in as an officer with the DPD in 1970. There were 5 women in Her class. She made history as the first Chinese woman to enter the DPD and possibly the first in the Nation. Headlines in the local News read “the first Chinese Girl to be sworn in as a policewoman”.

The women were assigned to the Detective Bureau straight out of the Academy because the Chief didn't know where to put them, he didn't think they could make it on Patrol. Of Course, this did not sit well with either the Detectives or the officers on Patrol. While they did the work of the Detectives, they didn't receive the title or the pay.

Their uniform was a Blazer, Shirt, skirt, heels and a purse to carry their guns. All the uniforms were specially tailored (at Joe Alpert's). One year their uniform was an actual uniform of the United States Air Force.

After two years the women were assigned to Patrol, Patty went to District 3. The Sgt. had to ask all the men if they would work with a woman before assigning a partner.

A few years later, they began to wear pants when it was decided you couldn't chase someone very well in heels and a skirt.

One day while Patty was on Patrol she saw a little boy on the sidewalk. She stopped and got out to talk to him. When that boy grew up he joined the DPD, his name was Phil Epple. He said he became a Denver Policeman because of Patty.

Patty became a Field Training Officer in 1985, training more than 75 new cops. Oh the stories she can tell.

Patty was known for her common sense and compassionate Policing. She was stern but never overbearing. Everyone respected Patty. Chief Whitman said that in D3 they always felt like they wanted to protect her, that's how much they liked her, but they didn't have to because she could always take care of herself.

Patty had opportunities to be assigned to other bureaus, but her heart was in Patrol where she spent 31 years. Patty retired in 2004 after 34 years of service.

Patty attended high school in Honolulu and volunteered for the Honolulu Police Dept. After returning to Denver, Patty attended CSU for one year then transferred to Metro State, they were one of the few institutions to offer courses in Police Science. Patty carried a full load while working full time for the Police Dept. She obtained a BS degree in Criminal Justice and was 9 hours shy of obtaining a BS degree in Psychology.

She has been interested in Policing since she was 12, because of her grandfather. She was also influenced by the TV show called The Decoy, about a policewoman.

Her grandfather, Jimmy Chin, was born in Blackhawk, Co., he died in 1966. He was an honorary Police Lieutenant for the DPD, a translator and a general spokesman for the Chinese residents of Denver.

Her Great Grandfather Chin Lin Sou was born in China in 1836 and came to Blackhawk in 1859 at the age of 19. He was 6' 2" tall and had steel gray eyes. Because of his stature and his ability to speak both Chinese and English and being well educated, he became a natural leader to the Chinese workers on the Central Pacific RR thru California, Nevada and Utah. He worked in the same capacity for the Union Pacific RR, thru Utah, Wyoming and into Colorado. It's known as the Trans Continental RR. He was honored with his portrait in stained glass in our Colorado State Capitol alongside other Colo. Pioneers. A chair was dedicated to him in the Central City Opera House, also alongside other Colorado pioneers.

Patty's family owned and operated the Lotus Room, a famous Chinese restaurant in Denver for many years.

Another interesting bit of information about Patty, she was one of the 1966 Miss Colorado Universe candidates.

Patty was an outstanding, dedicated, exemplary officer, she was a true professional and always looked upon with the utmost respect. She was the perfect role model to those of us who looked up to her as a police woman who excelled at the job, and did it with class.

Here is a copy of Denver Police Museum's Honoree, Patty Jung's acceptance speech

"Thank you so much for this honor.

Margaret said there were 5 of us gals in that first class of 1970. Along with me were Wilma Rowe, Kay Davidson, Eleanor Boehm and the late Ruthie Campbell Potter.

George Seaton was the Chief of Police when we joined, then Art Dill became our police chief. Art was more progressive, he said no one would make detective without patrol experience. So, because of him we were finally able to work patrol. He was the best Chief of Police.

I'm pretty sure the city wasted some money on a study when they put Wilma and I in the same patrol car. They didn't learn much because we only worked together less than a week because of different days off.

Being a Training Officer was fulfilling. But it had its moments. Like realizing that young person seated next to me in the patrol car was armed. And nothing made me feel old until I realized that recruit is the son of an officer I knew. But, after 18 years as a Training Officer I'm proud to say I still have all my hair- I didn't tear it all out, but the color is between me and my hairdresser.

I didn't get too excited, nor offended, when citizens asked me if my gun was loaded. I'd reply I had a bullet in my shirt pocket, or they would ask me if I was all by myself- I'd reply- yes the department trusted me with the police car.

I also understood some wives of the male recruits had their apprehensions. So, I made a point to meet the wives. If possible, I also recommended the class for spouses at the police academy.

I give credit to those that are currently on the job and to those who still are interested in joining the ranks.

I'm happy that some of my family members are here with me today. My nephew Scott Henke, his wife Karla and one of their daughters, Maya. My cousin Lonnie Wong and a good friend Alfred Trujillo, my cousin Lisa Burkhart, who I think of as a niece, she's not related to Tony- their last names are spelled differently. Lisa's late grandfather was Les Burkhart who served as a district one burglary detective, her late great uncle was Dale Burkhart, a robbery detective. Also here is my cousin Billy Chin who is a retired Montana police officer. His grandfather and my grandfather were brothers. His grandfather was Chin Lin Sou, the mayor of Denver's Chinatown when it existed.

I was proud to wear the uniform. It was a fun job. I've made lifelong friends. There was camaraderie, I think that is what is missing today.

I would like to thank the Denver Police Museum President, Mike Hesse and all the dedicated staff of the Denver Police Museum.

I would also like to thank President John Schnittgrund and all the Denver Police Retirees Association board members and audit committee for this honor.

And yes, there were bumps and ruts in the road – BUT we gals persevered. Thank you again!!”