

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership: In Memoriam
William D. Lay

Thomas G. Walsh
August 21, 2025



William D. Lay

On the occasion of his passing, the HJI Community honors Professor William Lay, who served on the HJI Board of Trustees and as its Board Secretary from 2018 to 2025, and as Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and Human Security since 2022. Professor Lay delivered HJI’s inaugural Constitution Day Lecture and inspired students through his highly regarded course on Human Rights, Law, and Government. We are deeply grateful for his dedication to our institution and our students. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife, Mrs. Taeko Lay, and to their family. Professor Lay will be profoundly missed by all of us.

In Memoriam Read Here

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Seonghwa

In Memory of William D Lay



Spouse: Taeko Lay

Children: Nathanael,
Daniel, Kori, Kalia, Jina,
Mika, Johanna

DOB: December 5, 1952

Blessing Date: Re-
Blessed on December 20,
2020

Ascension: August 14,
2025

Seonghwa Ceremony:
Saturday, August 23, at
8:00 AM at the Edwards-
Dowdle Funeral Home, 64
Ashford Ave, Dobbs Ferry,
NY 10522

**Visitation & Memorial
Service:** Friday, August
Service: Friday, August
22, 2025

Visitation begins at 4:00
PM Memorial Service at
7:00 PM

Visitation will continue
overnight until the
Seonghwa service.

Flowers can be sent to:
Whispering Pines of
Chappaqua Inc. 29 King
Street Chappaqua, NY
10514 (914) 238-5661

GoFundMe:
<https://gofund.me/5f4c0d8e>

Zoom broadcast:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87968012567>

William D Lay, son of Kenneth and Theodeanne Lay, was born on December 5, 1952, in Tokyo, Japan, where Kenneth was serving in the United States Army. After his father retired from the army, Bill and his family settled in Ripon, Wisconsin. After graduating high school, Bill attended the University of Notre Dame, where he completed two years of study before transferring to the University of Wisconsin, where he earned a B.S. in Chemistry and served as a research assistant to Nobel Laureate, Herbert C. Brown.

Bill joined the Unification Church in 1975 in Oakland, California. He became a member of the IOWC team and moved to New York in 1976. In 1978, he taught

and moved to New York in 1970. In 1970, he taught himself Spanish and became involved with the Spanish-language ministry, overseeing church services for the Spanish-speaking community.

In 1980, Bill began working with CAUSA International. Through CAUSA, Bill traveled across the globe – Latin America, the United States, Western Europe, Asia, and Australia – conducting seminars for leaders interested in the CAUSA Worldview. In 1986, after visiting and seeing over 50 countries, he was appointed Vice President of CAUSA International.

After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1992, Bill was selected to clerk at the New York Court of Appeals in Albany, the highest court in New York state. Following his time there, Bill and his family settled in Port Washington, New York, where he raised his five children, Nathanael, Daniel, Kori, Kalia, and Jina. He taught Sunday school in his living room to his children and other Unification church families. He always thrived teaching in any capacity. Bill and his family also spent many vacations in upstate New York where he taught his children how to cross country ski, which was one of his favorite activities. He and his family would also do yearly Summer road trips to his hometown of Ripon to spend time with his children's beloved Grandpa and Nannie.



In 2008, the Professors World Peace Academy established a partnership with the University of Bridgeport. Bill was drawn back to his first love: teaching. He became a full-time faculty member at the University of Bridgeport, where he established both undergraduate and graduate programs in Criminal Justice and Human Security. Professor Lay was revered and respected by his students for his clear and engaging lectures and the personal attention he gave to each student who sought his support, as evidenced by his 4.7 out of 5 rating on RateMyProfessors!

Bill and his wife Taeko, have been together for 15 years. They are re-Blessed. They made a home in Harrison, New York, with Taeko's daughters, Mika and Johanna. Just this year, they moved to Hawthorne, New Jersey, to be closer to their grandchildren, Maya and Yana.

To say that Bill loved the outdoors would be an understatement. He was a decorated marathon runner and avid hiker. He led countless camping and backpacking trips and shared his love and respect for nature with his children, as well as many others. He was also a crossword puzzle aficionado, often completing the Sunday Times crossword in pen. He

completing the Sunday Times crossword in pen. He was always excited to pick up the guitar – another skill he taught himself – and get a singing circle going. He passed on many of these talents to his children.

Bill Lay is survived by his beloved wife, Taeko, his children and their significant others, Nathanael and Barbara, Daniel and Haley, Kori and Correy, Kalia and Dan, and Jina and Cam, and two stepdaughters, Mika and Johanna, with her husband, Kushal. He is also survived by his two grandchildren, Maya and Yana.

Brother Bill's Seonghwa Ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 23 at 8:00 AM at the: Edwards-Dowdle Funeral Home 64 Ashford Ave, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

The Zoom Link to participate online is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87968012567>

Meeting ID: 879 6801 2567

Time: Aug 23, 2025 8:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please text or WhatsApp message Will Jacobson: (914) 357-3332 if you are having any

issues with Zoom.

If you would like to offer a financial gift to the Lay Family, please use

this GoFundMe Link: <https://gofund.me/5f4c0d8e>

To Send Flowers, please use this Local Florist Shop ~ FREE Delivery

Whispering Pines of Chappaqua Inc. 29 King Street
Chappaqua, NY 10514 (914) 238-5661

Funeral Prices:

Standing Sprays ~ \$275.00 and Up

Floor Baskets ~ \$200 and Up

Heart on a Stand ~ \$350 and Up

NO Delivery Charges for Bill's Seonghwa Ceremony

There will be a Prayer Vigil 40 Hours before the Seonghwas Ceremony

You can sign up on this link:

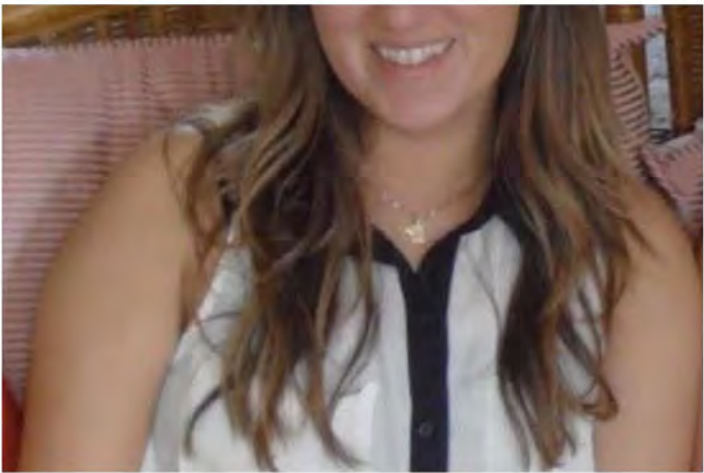
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BWQD-C-Kg6cFIEkPPHGI33FKWjRykhDKa1xhvdvm9Co/edit?usp=sharing>

Visitation and memorial services will be held on Friday, August 22, 2025 from 4:00 PM (visitation) to 7:00 PM (memorial service).

Visitation will continue overnight until the Seonghwa service.



In Memory of William D Lay



In Memory of Natalie Sun Ae Lowe



In Memory of Paul E Russell Jr



In Memory of Yuji Yokoyama



In Memory of Kazuko Murphy



In Memory of Josef Derflinger



In Memory of Monica Tsotetsi



In Memory of Jose Israel Marin Molina

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration Questions

Q: I don't see any welcome email, did my registration go through?

Find the answer

Airtable Questions

Q: I registered but it says I need to create an airtable account, how do I do that?

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Q: I forgot to bookmark my dashboard page! How do I find it again?

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