



Name in English: Daniel Siu Chong Liu

Name in Chinese:

Name in Pinyin:

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1908-1986

Birth Place: Honolulu, Hawaii

1st Chinese American City Police Chief

Profession: Police Chief

Education: Attended classes at California Baptist College

Awards: 1965, Voted “State’s Most Admired Man,” Honolulu Star-Bulletin; 1966, J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal, Veterans of Foreign Wars; 1969, Order of the Splintered Paddle, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce

Contribution (s): The first Chinese American to head a police department in an American city, Daniel S.C. Liu led the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) for over 21 years from 1948 to 1969. He joined the department in 1941, starting as a patrolman and quickly rising through the ranks to become chief in 1948. In the 1940s, corruption and graft scandals rocked the HPD. Liu’s leadership in the aftermath of these scandals led the Honolulu Police Department to national prominence for its integrity and efficiency. The respect for the department that Liu’s leadership inspired is still felt today. His term was marked in particular by his strict enforcement programs fighting corruption and bribery, the development of a community relations division, and improved working conditions and salaries for police officers. Many of Liu’s creations are still in existence in Honolulu today, including a redesigned police badge, the chaplaincy corps, the canine corps, and the Police Activities League. He was also among the police chiefs in the forefront of making policing a subject worthy of professional training and academic study through the creation of a police science program at the University of Hawaii and establishing a cadet training program to produce professionally trained police officers.

A public servant and community leader, Liu was involved with youth activities and many civic organizations, such as the YCMA, Boy Scouts, and Police Activities League. His outstanding contributions to law enforcement drew national and international attention. In 1959, he served as president of the FBI National Academy and would also become the first Hawaiian police official to be elected to serve as president of the International Associations of Chiefs of Police in 1964. Upon retirement in 1969, he served as a special assistant for international affairs with U.S. Postmaster General in Washington D.C. In the 1952 espionage film “Big Jim McCain,” Liu played himself as police chief working to solve a case with award-winning actor John Wayne.

In honor of Liu, the Honolulu Police Department's Downtown Chinatown Substation was named the "Daniel Liu Building."

External Links:

<http://www.honolulupolicecommunityfoundation.org/files/HallofFameLiu.pdf>

<http://www.honolulupd.org/about/department/history/chiefs/chiefs4.htm>

<http://archives.starbulletin.com/2003/07/07/news/story11.html>

Kim, Hyung-chan. (1999). Distinguished Asian Americans. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group.