



Name in English: David Louie
Name in Chinese: 雷永强[雷永強]
Name in Pinyin: Léi Yǒngqiáng
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1950
Birth Place: Cleveland, Ohio
Current location: San Francisco, California
Philanthropy: Yes

Television News Pioneer

Profession(s): Reporter, Television Journalist

Education: Bachelor of Science, Journalism, Northwestern University, 1972

Awards: 2012, OCA Lifetime Achievement Award, Organization of Chinese Americans; 2011, Lifetime Achievement Award, APA Heritage Foundation; 2005, Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award, Organization of Chinese Americans; 2000, Emmy Award, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences San Francisco/Northern California; 1999, Rob Downey Citation, Radio and Television News Directors Association; 1997, Hall of Achievement, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University; 1996, Lifetime Achievement Award, Asian American Journalists Association; 1995, Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, Lakewood High School; 1995, Silver Circle Award, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; 1994, David Louie Day, San Francisco Board of Supervisors; 1990, Governor's Service Medallion, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; 1973, Meritorious Conduct Award, San Francisco Police Department

Contribution (s): David Louie grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. His mother was born in Ohio and his father had been born in Toishan, China. His father was a businessman who ran a noodle factory in China, moved to Seattle, Washington, then opened a noodle factory in Cleveland. Louie later said about his early ambitions that, "News has been in my blood since I wrote for my high school newspaper. On second thought, maybe it was the ink that rubbed off on my hands that hooked me when I was a newspaper delivery boy." He was introduced to television at the age of 5 when a neighbor that produced a weekly public affairs program put him in front of the camera. Louie appeared weekly on the broadcast from 1955 until the show ended eight years later in 1963. These early experiences fueled his ambition to become a TV journalist. In 1968, and just turned 18 years old, he became the youngest intern hired at ABC News just in time to help cover the riot that engulfed Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood in July. That same year, the Cleveland Chapter of Society of Professional Journalists awarded Louie a scholarship that enabled him to attend Northwestern University to study journalism. In 1970, he was the very first recipient of a scholarship from the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA).

After graduating from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism in 1972, Louie was immediately hired by KGO-TV News, an affiliate of ABC in San Francisco, California. He was one of the first Asian American TV journalists anywhere in the country and the very first for the station. In fact, the station advertised him as an "outsider." He was one of the very few Asian faces on television at the time that wasn't a stereotype and therefore served as an inspiration for countless Asian Americans from the 1970s onwards.

David Louie has had a keen eye not only for the news but also for the other things going on around him. In 1973, soon after he moved to San Francisco, he observed a bank teller putting money into a paper bag without counting the money. He suspected that a robbery was taking place and notified the bank security officer, who happened to be an off-duty San Francisco police officer that he knew. The robber was arrested and \$4,000 in cash was recovered. For this he received the "Meritorious Conduct Award" from the San Francisco Police Department.

David Louie has performed a wide range of duties in his 40 years at KGO, reporting wherever he's been needed. He's been bureau chief for the East Bay and Peninsula, business and technology editor, food critic, weekend news anchor, and weekday substitute anchor. He's also covered sports and weather. Among notable stories he covered was the 1974 kidnap, apprehension, and trial of Patricia Hearst and the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. In 1979, he was among the first American journalists allowed into the People's Republic of China, just a few months after relations between the United States had been normalized after 40 years of Cold War isolation.

After serving as National President of the Asian American Journalists Association from 1990 to 1992, David Louie became the first minority elected in 1994 as Chairman of the Board of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS), which awards the annual Emmy Award that recognizes the best in television. In that capacity, until he ended his term in 1996, he launched the Academy's website and expanded a national program on media literacy for secondary school students.

Never shy about confronting racial controversies in the television industry, Louie addressed the relative scarcity of Asian American men in television news in comparison to Asian American women and directly attributed it to racism and the lingering effects of past perceptions, "You know, if you think of the image of Asian-American men, you have to think about war. World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam - they were the enemy."

"There's been criticism that Asian-American women have succeeded more than men on TV because their images - as war brides, as being part of interracial marriages, as being maybe compliant and pretty and non-threatening - were more easily accepted than images of Asian-American men."

Among other projects he's worked on was narrating a documentary feature film in 1999, *We Served With Pride*, with actress Ming-na Wen, about the contributions of Chinese Americans in the U.S. military during World War II.

Philanthropy: In 1994, as the first minority to be elected as Chairman of the Board of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, David Louie established an annual \$20,000 scholarship program for college students. He also mentors dozens of aspiring and entry level journalists each year as well as raises money to provide scholarships to such students.

External Links:

http://abclocal.go.com/kgobio?section=resources/inside_station/newsteam&id=5771711

<http://www.emmysf.tv/component/content/article/3-silver-circles/164-dlouie.html>

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?section=news/local&id=8681289>

http://v1.asianconnections.com/community/people/chinese_historical_society/profiles/pioneers_3/pioneers_3.php

<http://apiaheritagesf.org/2011awardswinners.shtml>

<http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/faculty/boa.aspx?id=62939>

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsouce.com/archive/?date=19990318&slug=2950029>

http://sf.worldjournal.com/pages/full_sfnews/push?article-雷永強跑新聞43年+4奪艾美獎&id=14730498