



I-House Alumni Spotlight: Maggie Gee (IH 1950-51)

Aviator, Congressional Gold Medal Winner, Physicist, and Political Activist

Birthday: August 5, 1923 **Death:** February 1, 2013



Maggie Gee was an aviator, physicist, and political activist. She made history as one of just two Chinese American women to serve in the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during World War II. Since female pilots were not allowed in combat at the time, she helped male pilots train for combat, ferried military aircrafts, and co-piloted B-17 bombers through mock dogfights.



Having already succeeded once in a male-dominated field, Gee went on to succeed in another, earning both her BS and MS in Physics at UC Berkeley. She then joined Berkeley's renowned Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she conducted research on nuclear fusion and Cold-War era weapon systems.



Gee was also active in political causes, holding the following local and statewide positions:

- Alameda County Democratic Central Committee
- California Democratic Party Executive Board
- Asian Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus
- 1992 Democratic Party Platform Committee



In 2010, President Barack Obama presented Gee and other surviving WASPs with the Congressional Gold Medal. Gee received a second Congressional Gold Medal posthumously as a Chinese American veteran of World War II.



Learn more about this notable I-House alumna!

The determined physicist and pilot believed in success and social change every step along her path, and said in 2003, *"I'm very optimistic about the world and people... it will be alright...You can make changes. I think just one small person can make a little bit of change..."*

