



A Continuing Care Retirement Community Since 1890  
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[www.hollenbeckpalms.com](http://www.hollenbeckpalms.com)

For: Greater Los Angeles area

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## **Hollenbeck Palms Retirement Community Resident Louise Leung Shee Chan Celebrates 108<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

(Los Angeles, February 5, 2013) Hollenbeck Palms is celebrating the 108<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Louise Leung Shee Chan, a resident of Hollenbeck Palms Continuing Care Retirement Community for 11 years. She is currently the oldest resident of Los Angeles' most historic retirement community, now in its 123<sup>rd</sup> year of service to the Greater Los Angeles Area.

In 2011 Chan received a commendation from the California State Assembly which noted the following accomplishments and historic events throughout her life. At the time of her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday she was honored by five generations of progeny and when she was born February 5, 1905 Theodore Roosevelt was President and Albert Einstein had unveiled his famous  $E=mc^2$  equation. Her husband Chin Foo Leung first came to the U.S. in May 1880 to the Chinese land known as Gold Mountain. Louise made the 21 day journey on the ship USS President Taft from Hong Kong to San Francisco with only a suitcase and the clothes she was wearing; and arrived in San Francisco on March 8, 1924 two weeks before the National Origins Act which barred further entry of Asian females to the U.S. for the rest of the decade. She was interred on Angel Island and then began work in her husband's general store and later at their meat market in Los Angeles' Chinatown.

Louise was widowed in 1930 with three children under the age of five, and sought employment cleaning strawberries, and walnuts, cleaning houses, washing clothes in a Chinese hand laundry and as a nanny. She became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. on November 23, 1951 at the age of 46. She has witnessed the administration of 19 Presidents and became a seamstress at age 37 and was later distinguished as Chief Pattern Cutter at the Blake Manufacturing Garment Shop in Los Angeles until her retirement at age 61. At age 83, Louise retired as partner and co-owner of C.W. Produce Company.

Both her family and her State Commendation note that Louise has provided love and dedication to her family and over the course of life she has demonstrated perseverance, steadfastness, honesty, and integrity which have earned her the great respect and sincere admiration of her family and a wide circle of friends. Through her remarkable personal and professional achievements and strong moral values and fine example, Louise Chan has provided a fine role model for others to emulate.

### **Hollenbeck Palms Background**

Hollenbeck Palms, a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), provides independent, assisted living and skilled nursing for its 230 residents. Its focus on “Wellness as a Way of Life” through daily nutrition, exercise, activities, health care programs and many other amenities, enables residents to achieve goals which enhance their independence and quality of life.

Hollenbeck Palms President and CEO, William G. Heideman has served Hollenbeck Palms for 40 years and follows the leadership of his father William A. Heideman, and grandfather Clarence W. Hensel, who served terms of 46 years and 31 years respectively. The long legacy of Hollenbeck Palms Presidents has steered its course steadfastly to insure that Hollenbeck stays true to its mission as excerpted below:

...to provide comfortable, enjoyable and secure retirement living... with great compassion, honest dignity and genuine love.

Hollenbeck is a 501C3 nonprofit and is governed by a distinguished Board of Trustees, comprised of seven individuals who have achieved notable professional and philanthropic accomplishments throughout their careers. The California Department of Social Services and Los Angeles County Health Department oversee Hollenbeck’s licensing and standards.

Hollenbeck Palms was established in 1890 as Hollenbeck Home, by the widow of financier and community leader John Edward Hollenbeck. Elizabeth Hollenbeck believed that life's highest calling was to serve others. It was her goal to provide a comfortable and secure lifetime haven for California seniors. Her vision became a reality.

In 1926, Hollenbeck became the first licensed retirement home in the state of California.

Today in its second century of following Mrs. Hollenbeck's vision, the independent, non-profit community continues to attend to the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of its seniors, with great compassion, with honest dignity, and with genuine love. These words accurately describe the commitment and dedication of Hollenbeck Palms.

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