

Former U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commissioner Wendy Lee Gramm honored as Immigrant Hero of Year

Former U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commissioner Wendy Lee Gramm was recently honored with the Immigrant Hero of the Year Award, which recognizes Korean Americans who have contributed to the development of the United States as immigrants and enhanced the quality of the Korean American community.

The nonprofit organization Korea-America Friendship Association (President Park Sun-geun) announced the recipient of its 2025 Immigrant Hero Award. A third-generation Korean American immigrant from Hawaii, Dr. Lee Gramm earned a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College and a Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University, and taught economics at Texas A&M University for more than eight years.

From 1985-1988, Lee Gramm served as an assistant secretary in the Presidential Office of Management and Budget and then the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). At the time, she was the highest-



Wendy Lee Gramm (L), former chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and Gen. Michael Siegl

ranking Korean American in the federal executive branch. She later served as chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) from 1988-1993 and as director of the Regulatory Policy Institute at George Mason University.

She is married to former Sen. Phil Gramm, and they have two sons and five grandchildren.

Former Sen. Gramm served as chair of the Senate Banking Committee and was also a presidential candidate.

The organization also announced that Gen. Michael Siegl, the only active-duty Korean American general in the U.S. Army and currently serving as the 57th chief of staff and quartermaster general, will receive the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Immigrant Hero Award winner will receive \$25,000, while the Lifetime Achievement Award winner will receive \$5,000. The recipients plan to donate the prize money to a U.S. nonprofit organization of their choice.

'Pride of Korean Mexicans' Hangeul school raises money to repair aging building

A 36-year-old Hangeul school in Mexico, which is considered the pride of the Korean community in Mexico, is facing difficulties in educating students due to the aging building and has recently started fundraising activities to improve the educational space and expand facilities.

The Korean School in Mexico building in the center of Mexico City was recently assessed to be in need of repairs due to structural deformation and damage.

The Korean School in Mexico was established in response to the wishes of compatriots in Mexico, which was once a barren country for Hangeul education. Led by Korean business, the school purchased the current building in May 2010 with donations from various community members and Korean companies and support from the Overseas Koreans Foundation (now the Overseas Koreans Agency).

In 2012, a second round of fundraising was conducted to build an

annex, including an auditorium, and with the support of Korean business, the school was able to function as a stable school.

However, the building itself

is old and in increasing need of maintenance.

"The building is more than 100 years old and is designated as a historical building in Mexico, so we can only do so much," said Oh Young-ran, principal of the Korean School in Mexico.

Currently, the school has 220 students and 20 teachers in 17 classes, including kindergarten (three classes), Native Korean (nine classes) and Korean language (five classes), who stay for more than four to five hours every Saturday for various activities. This year marks the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to Mexico, where about 15,000 Koreans live.



The Korean School in Mexico, located in the heart of Mexico City