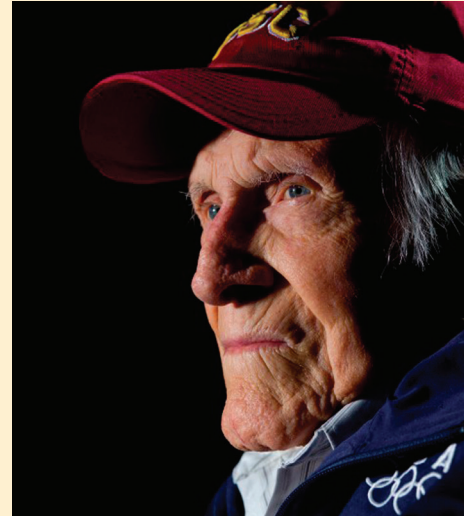


In Memoriam: Distinguished and Beloved Trojans



Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene

USC alumnus Major General Harold J. Greene died in Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 5; he was the highest-ranking American soldier to be lost in combat since the Vietnam War. He attended the university while serving in the U.S. Army, earning dual master's degrees and a doctorate from the Viterbi School of Engineering between 1989 and 1992. After graduating from USC, Greene applied his expertise to the improvement of helicopter safety. His important work in protecting the lives of his fellow military personnel earned him numerous commendations. The two-star general and devoted patriot was an equally devoted family man. Greene and his wife, Sue Myers, attended the U.S. Army War College together and raised two children while serving their country with distinction. Greene's tour in Afghanistan was his first deployment to a war zone—an assignment he accepted with the courage and clarity of purpose that defined his entire life.



Louis Zamperini

The remarkable life of Louis Zamperini exemplified the Trojan motto *Fight On!* Entering USC on a track scholarship, Zamperini, at age 19, was the youngest qualifier for the 5000-meter race at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Postponing another chance at athletic glory, the Dornsife College alumnus enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps just prior to World War II. When his plane crashed during a routine mission in 1943, Zamperini survived 47 days aboard a life raft in the Pacific Ocean and more than two years of captivity as a prisoner of war. Despite the physical and psychological tumult of his war experience, Zamperini persevered in civilian life as a motivational speaker and emerged as a powerful symbol of courage and endurance. Before passing away in July, he was helping to develop his life story into an inspiring Hollywood film: a fitting legacy for a USC legend and an American icon.



Michael Preston

Michael Preston was a renowned expert on racial and ethnic politics, and inspired generations of scholars of urban politics. At USC, he served as vice provost for strategic initiatives, professor emeritus, and was a former chair of political science at our Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He mentored countless faculty and students throughout his nearly three decades at the university.

In the late 1980s, Preston started USC's first course on black politics and later led a key initiative shared by USC Dornsife and the Office of the Provost to recruit minority and female scholars. As a specialist in American, urban, and black politics, Preston authored *Racial and Ethnic Politics in California, volumes I and II* and *The New Black Politics: The Search for Political Power*, among other seminal books. He researched Los Angeles' blacks and Latinos in politics, dissecting political changes in the city since the early 1980s when Tom Bradley was mayor. A memorial service was held on the USC campus in August.



Xinran Ji

"If you're going through adversity, keep going." That was Xinran Ji's way of solving problems, according to Jiaming Kong, a close friend from his undergraduate days at Zhejiang University in China. Ji, a graduate student in electrical engineering at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, tragically lost his life on July 24. He was remembered by friends as "amiable, willing to help all the time," and possessing an almost encyclopedic knowledge of bikes, cars, trains, and planes. He could name each model of Chinese railway engine from the oldest to the latest bullet trains, and was someone who was "always smiling, modest, positive, and hard working."

Even before coming to USC this past fall, Ji had distinguished himself as an exceptional scholar. His undergraduate research in the design and implementation of control systems for quad-rotor aircraft earned him a First-class Scholarship for Excellence in Research and Innovation from Zhejiang University. Ji will be deeply missed by the entire USC community. A moving memorial service was held on the university's campus on August 1, filling every seat in Newman Hall.