

《2019年辞世的十位中外名人》

2019年即将结束，这一年里有许多大事小情值得回忆，也有不少名人相继辞世。他们当中有政要、科学家、文学巨匠、建筑大师、时尚泰斗……他们的离去令世人不禁扼腕叹息。本期我们就一起回顾下2019年故去的十位中外名人吧。

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Gu Fangzhou, a virologist who dedicated his life to eradicating polio from China, passed away at age 92 on Jan 2. "Sugar pills", an oral polio vaccine, developed by Gu reduced incidence rate of the disease by nearly 100 times from 1949 to 1993, saving millions of children from crippling paralysis. "I spent my whole life doing one thing – developing an effective polio vaccine," Gu Fangzhou, once said while summarizing his life. Gu started polio research in 1957 and created the sugar pills attenuated oral vaccine in 1959. According to Gu's biography, in order to test the efficacy and side effects of the vaccine, he administered the vaccine to himself and started the first stage

of the human trial. After extensive testing, he took another bold step to administer the oral vaccine to his one-month-old son. This inspired his colleagues to vaccinate their kids. "If we don't believe in what we produce, how can others believe in it?" said Gu while recalling the trial.

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Yu Min, a nuclear physicist widely known as the father of China's hydrogen bomb, died on Jan 16 at the age of 93. Yu, together with 99 other Chinese people from different walks of life, won the honorary title of "reform pioneer" at a gathering held in Beijing on Dec 18 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of reform and opening-up. In January 2015 Yu also won China's top science and technology accolade. Yu, a native of Tianjin, earned his bachelor's degree in



I.M. Pei, the world-famous Chinese-American architect, died in a New York hospital on May 16 at the age of 102. In April of this year, Pei just celebrated his 102nd birthday. Pei was born in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on April 26, 1917. In 1935, he went to the US to study at the University of Pennsylvania, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University. He obtained a bachelor's degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in architecture from Harvard University. In 1983, he won the Pritzker prize, known as the Nobel Prize for architects. The glass pyramid of the Louvre in Paris, France is the most famous masterpiece of I.M. Pei. His architectural works in China include the Suzhou Museum, Beijing Xiangshan Hotel, Hong Kong Bank of China Tower and Beijing Bank of China Head Office. The Chinese embassy in the US also came from the hand of Pei.

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US author Toni Morrison, whose 1987 novel "Beloved" about a runaway slave won a Pulitzer Prize and contributed to a body of work that made her the first black woman to be presented the Nobel Prize in Literature, died at the age of 88. A spokesman for her publishing company announced the death but did not provide an immediate cause. The Washington Post said she died on August 8 at a New York hospital. Morrison was a commercial as well as critical success, drawing praise for writing in a vivid, lyrical style while assessing issues of race, gender and love in American society. "Beloved" was set during the US Civil War and based on the true story of a woman who killed her 2-year-old daughter to spare her from slavery.

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Former French president Jacques Chirac died on Sept 26, at the age of 86. The former leader was a centre-right politician who served as head of state from 1995 to 2007. The two-term French president was the first leader to acknowledge France's role in the Holocaust and defiantly opposed the US-led war in Iraq in 2003. French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the former head of state as a "great Frenchman" who had "embodied" France. Chirac was also an important foreign leader with a deep affinity to China. He was passionate about Chinese history and culture. After visiting the Qin Shihuang Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an in 1978, he was greatly stunned and called the place "the eighth world wonder". Chirac left a profound footprint in Sino-French relations. Between the times he assumed and left office as president, he visited China four times, tracking almost half of the country. In the meantime, Sino-French relations kept improving. In 1997, China and France established a comprehensive cooperative partnership, and in 2004, they established a comprehensive strategic partnership.

