

IN MEMORIAM

Abe, Lewis Isao, 94, Carpinteria, CA; Dec. 14; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA facility and served in the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Deana; children, Lisa (Bill) Yee, Nora (Wayne) Shen, Robert and Richard; sisters-in-law, Esther and Evelyn; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

Crawford, Keiko, 91, Eagan, MN, Dec. 18; she is survived by her son, James (Margaret); gc: 2.

Handa, Robert, 93, Bellevue, WA, Jan. 4; during WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA facility, during which he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Military Intelligence Service; he was predeceased by his wife, Minnie; he is survived by his sons, Daniel, Douglas (Joyce) and David; his life partner and loyal companion, Eun Soo Jang; gc: 2.

Hirabayashi, Tsuneko, 106, Seattle, WA, Jan. 2; during WWII, she and her two daughters were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA facility while her husband was incarcerated at a DOJ camp in Missoula, MT; she was predeceased by her husband, Tomonobu; daughter, Amy (Ted Chihara); she is survived by her daughter, Hannah Hirabayashi; gc: 5; ggc: 5.

Miyatake, Archie, 92, 92, Los Angeles, Dec. 20; he is survived by his wife, Takeko Miyatake; sons, Alan (April) and Gary (Mayumi) Miyatake; gc: 4.

Nishikawa, Walter K., 74, Pasadena, CA; he is survived by his wife, Bernice; siblings, Dennis (Jackie) and Sherry (David)

Nakaishi; niece, Lauren Nakaishi; sister-in-law, Linda Nishikawa. port Coast, CA, Dec. 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Mitsy; he is survived by his children, Ken (Judy) and Amy Uyemura (Gary); gc: 3.

Okumura, Masanaga, 96, Los Angeles, Nov. 24; during WWII, he served in the U.S. Army in both the MIS and 100th/442nd/100 RCT; he is survived by his wife, Frances; children, Patricia, Donn and Howard; sisters, Masaie and Sueme; gc: 4.

TRIBUTE

ALICE SETSUKO HIRAI



Alice Setsuko Hirai passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 24, 2016. She was born in San Francisco, Calif., on Nov. 8, 1939, to Lillian and Takasaburo Sekino. In 1942, Alice and her family were interned in Topaz, Utah, as part of the relocation of Japanese Americans during WWII. After the war, she moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and graduated from West High School in 1958.

In 1962, she earned her B.S. at the University of Utah with a degree in nursing. She met Mack Susumu Hirai in 1959, and they would get married in August 1962. They would go on to have three children.

As a nurse, Alice served in several capacities: public health nurse, home health nurse, school nurse, floor nurse, among other things. During her time as a nurse, she had passion that few others possessed, which helped sustain her career for 54 years until her retirement in the spring of 2016.

As the mother of a disabled child, Alice was very involved in the disabled community. She and Mack were instrumental in creating programs for challenged youth across the state; they were recognized with the Exceptional Parents of the Year Award as a result of this hard work. In 1996, Alice married Cliff Thompson, later divorced. She found joy in educating people about Japanese American internment camps, coming full circle when she played an internee in the movie "American Pastime."

Alice was very active; she enjoyed playing taiko, caring for her cats, swimming in water aerobics (affectionately known as the "Mermaid Girls"). Most of her time was spent with family, especially her grandkids, which she spoiled to no end. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mack, and her parents. She is survived by her siblings, Warren (Lucia) Sekino, Irene Linnett née Sekino and Dave (Erin) Sekino; her children, Stan (Tami) Hirai, Marlane Hirai and Alicia (Brian) Yamada née Hirai; her grandchildren, Kenzie, Alex, Jaxon and Dylan; and her longtime partner, Simon Hernandez.

TRIBUTE

WILLIAM TOSHIO (TOSH) YASUTAKE



William Toshio (Tosh) Yasutake passed away on Dec. 12, 2016. Tosh will be remembered for his genuine kindness, his perseverance, his ever-present laugh, and his dedication to making the world a better place.

Tosh and his family in Seattle were incarcerated following the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1942. He went on to enlist in WWII and served as a medic in the famed 442nd RCT, still the most-decorated military unit in the history of American warfare. While serving in the European theater, Tosh was wounded in the leg rushing to the aid of fallen comrades and was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for bravery. In his lifetime, he would also be awarded a Congressional Gold Medal and the French Legion of Honor for his service to the United States of America and its allies.

Upon his return to the U.S. and as a reward to himself for surviving the horrors of the war, he took a trip to New York City, where he met Fumi, the woman who would become his wife. After a long-distance courtship, they got married in July of 1950, and remained married for 66 years. In 1953, Tosh began his research career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He went on to become a pioneer in his field of fish pathology, earned his Ph.D in 1980 from the University of Tokyo, the first American to have been so honored. Tosh also earned the distinguished Snieszko Distinguished Service Award in 1987, the highest honor in his field. He will live on through his work and the contributions he made to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What Tosh will most be remembered for is his devotion to his family. He is the father of four children and six grandchildren and will be missed as a brother, a friend, and a role model in his community. He will be dearly missed, but warmly remembered. Public services were held at Evergreen Washelli (11111 Aurora Ave. North, Seattle) on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. Donations can be made to Densho and the NVC Foundation.

TRIBUTE

AYAKO (AYA) YAMAKOSHI



Ayako ("Aya") Yamakoshi was born on June 6, 1927, in San Diego, Calif., to parents Sohichi and Misao Hosaka. She passed away in Park Ridge, Ill., on Oct. 20, 2016.

Aya's father was awarded the Emperor of Japan's Gold Medal of Honor for his contributions to agriculture and was one of the founders of the San Diego Buddhist Church. Her mother loved the Japanese arts and was self-taught in folk and classical dancing, poetry, painting and singing.

Aya had two older brothers, Henry and George, and a younger sister, Sayoko.

With the outbreak of World War II, Aya was 13 when the family was sent to the Poston Internment Camp in Arizona, then to the Crystal City Family Internment Camp in Texas. When the war ended, the family resettled in Fresno, Calif., and became successful fruit farmers.

After graduating from high school, Aya received a full scholarship to attend the Kann Institute of Art in Hollywood, Calif. In 1946, Aya was crowned the first Miss Bussei or young American Buddhist queen of Central California.

In 1950, Aya married Noboru ("Noby") Yamakoshi, founder and chairman of Nobart, which was a large graphic design and production company. During the company's formative years, Aya worked on commercial artwork while the family lived in Park Ridge.

Aya was an extraordinarily talented artist who created hundreds of works of art, many of them paintings. She also devoted many years to community work throughout the Midwest, California and Florida. Besides her intense passion and love of art, Aya's interests were golfing, swimming, haiku writing and painting Buddhist subject matter.

Husband Noby passed away in 1995, but Aya continued her community service with the Japanese American Citizens League and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fla.

Aya was the supportive, loyal and solid "anchor" next to the "motor," her husband, the late Noby Yamakoshi. Aya was also incredibly supportive of, dedicated to and extremely loving to her family and friends.

She was gentle, beautiful inside and out, peaceful, a joy to be with, talented yet humble, generous and thoughtful, and we were so very fortunate to have such a special and wonderful human being as our mother and grandmother.

Aya is survived by her sons, Warren and Brian; daughter, Vivian; and two grandchildren, Brooke and Ryan.

A memorial service was held at Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, visitation at noon. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Midwest Buddhist Temple or the Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

TRIBUTE

AMY UCHIMOTO NAITO



Amy Uchimoto Naito, 92, Costa Mesa, Calif., Sept. 30. She was interned at Gila River Relocation Center and after college served as an occupational therapist as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Amy later earned her teaching credential and was an elementary school teacher for 17 years. She is survived by her husband, Albert; children, Marina Naito, Allison Naito, Noelle Pillsbury and Neal Naito; brother, Warren Uchimoto; sister, Laura Nakanishi; 6 grandchildren; and nieces and nephew.

TRIBUTE

MASANAGA (MAS) OKUMURA



Masanaga (Mas) Okumura, 96, formerly from Santa Barbara, born 02/26/1920-11/24/2016 WWII Veteran, MIS 442/100 RCT He is survived by his wife, Frances Children: Patricia, Donn, Howard Four grandchildren Surviving sisters: Masaie and Sueme Many nieces and nephews A private service was held.