

In MEMORIAM

Hongo, Miyoko, 98, Montebello, CA, March 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Isao; and son, Russell Ken; she is survived by her sons, Ronnie G. Hongo and Raymond M. Hongo; sister, Michiko Koga; sister-in-law, Yoshiko Hongo; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Kitabayashi, Mary, 87, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Shiro Kitabayashi; she is survived by her sons, Don and Joey Kitabayashi; brother, Rick (Tomi) Nakatani; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2

Miyamura, Kazuko, 93, San Martin, CA, Jan. 11; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Min Miyamura; and sons, Wayne Miyamura and Dean Miyamura; siblings, George Sato, Chiyeko Harada and Nora Kinoshita; she is survived by her children, Alan (Joy) Miyamura and Lorraine (Jim) Kirkland; siblings, Sue Dible, Mits (Liz) Sato and Dick (Yoko) Sato; gc: 2, ggc: 3.

Nishitani, Miwako, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 5; she is survived by her daughter, Junko (Benjamin Ballard) Nishitani; sister, Mieko (Shigeo) Omori; sister-in-law, Fumiko Nakanishi; brother-in-

law, Yoshioki (Tazuko) Nishitani; 1 niece; 1 nephew; 1 nephew-in-law.

Suzuki, Junko, 84, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 11; she is survived by her children, Kenji (Tomoko) Suzuki and Hiromi Cyndi (Melvin) Quan; gc: 3.

Rosa, CA, March 24; a JACLeR; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary; siblings, Hiroyuki, Ato and Mary Satake; 3 brothers-in-law and 2 sisters-in-law; he is survived by his children, Delwin, Lucy (Marshall Cox) and Jennifer; sisters, Eiko Sakaguchi and Hanaye Baba; sister-in-law, Susy Bauman; gc: 2. ■

Yamakawa, Jimmy, 92, Santa

TRIBUTE

YOSHIO YAMADA



Yoshio "Yosh" Yamada passed away peacefully on March 18, 2021, at the age of 94. Born on July 25, 1926, in Oakland, Calif., he was the eighth of nine children born to Masaoki and Masayo Yamada. His father died when he was still very young, forcing the family to sell their Cook Service Laundry to set up a smaller laundry. Yosh lived in Oakland until 1942, when he and his family were forced to leave their home to be incarcerated in the Topaz Internment Camp, located in Utah. Yosh wrote, "We lost everything, including our home and business ...

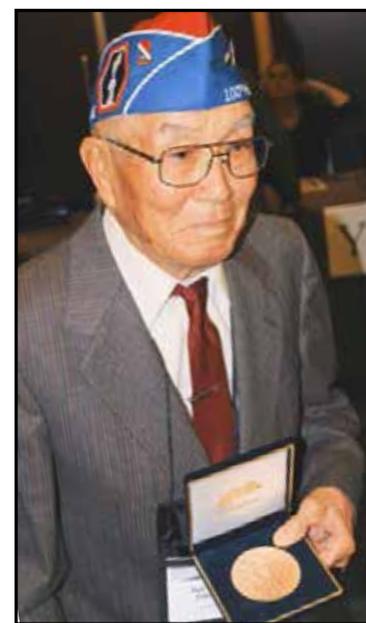
I attended my last 2 years of high school ... where we often moved about with guns pointing at us." After graduating from Topaz High School in June 1944, he left camp to Chicago, where his older sister had secured a job. That fall he began at the University of Wisconsin, but in January 1945 he was inducted into the U.S. Army where, as he puts it, "I served the very country that had imprisoned me." He trained to be a radio repairman, but "just as I was preparing to ship to out to Japan, the war ended."

Upon his discharge from the Army, Yosh returned to the University of Wisconsin where he lettered in both track and football, being on the two-time Champion 150-pound football team. After earning a bachelor's and then master's in PE, he took a teaching job at Englewood High School, located in the south side of Chicago. Yosh taught PE and coached football, leading the team to a city championship in 1958. Finding there was no budget for athletics, he organized the Englewood High School Alumni Association which raised significant funds for the athletic program. During his tenure he held various positions including, department chair, athletic director, and director of the driver education center, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. Yosh had opportunities to take coaching jobs at suburban schools and small colleges, but he remained dedicated to the students at Englewood. Honoring his 38 years at Englewood, he was presented with a resolution from the State of Illinois, House of Representatives, which stated in part, "WHEREAS, Mr. Yamada became known as a coach who really cared for his athletes, and helped 90 percent of them to graduate from high school and many to go on to college... be it resolved that we congratulate Yoshio Yamada on the occasion of his retirement..." In his own words, from his years of experience working with young adults, Yosh believed that, "An individual will achieve and learn if he or she is dealt with as an individual. We, as adults, must command not demand respect if we intend to receive respect. Students must be treated fairly, with their individual needs being considered. All students will then achieve."

Active during retirement, Yosh golfed with his Nisei friends and the Chi-Town Pros. He bowled Friday nights, became a Bridge master, and traveled to many Super Bowls. Every summer Yosh visited his siblings who had eventually re-settled in the San Francisco Bay Area after the war. He was considered the "fun" uncle to his nieces and nephews who always looked forward to his visits. In 2017, Yosh moved to Sacramento, Calif., to be closer to family. From his independent living apartment, Greenhaven Terrace, he went to the casinos four days a week, and watched CNN, "America's Got Talent," the Chicago Bears and Cubs, and golf. His daily routine included Sudoku, which he did up until his last week. He enjoyed visits from his nieces and nephews, and worried for them about the world he would be leaving behind. At the age of 94, when asked, what he had wanted to be when he grew up, he replied, "a PE teacher." Yosh had done what he wanted to do in life, while positively impacting many others; his had been a life well lived. Yosh is preceded in death by his siblings: Sachiko Yamada, Chieko Sakai, Tadashi Yamada, Miyeko Mishima, Masashi Yamada, Chizuko Hosoume and Mitsuo Yamada. He is survived by his sister, June Tamanaha, and many nieces and nephews. Please post a remembrance on the Yosh Yamada Memorial Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Yosh-Yamada-Memorial-100936898818475/>. Memorials may be made to the National Japanese American Citizens League.

TRIBUTE

JACK TOMINAGA



Matsuo "Jack" Tominaga was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He died at the age of 97 on April 21, 2021.

Jack was born to Daijiro Haro and Nobu Tominaga on Jan. 4, 1924, in Shelley, Idaho, and he had six brothers and three sisters. He went on to serve in World War II in the distinguished and highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team. It was a Japanese American infantry regiment with the motto "Go for Broke"— and in 2011 they were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in Washington. On the flight to D.C., the pilot shook Jack's hand and thanked him for his service. The passengers applauded when they learned he was on board, though he napped through the fanfare.

His name, along with that of his four brothers who also served in WWII, is engraved in the Memorial Park in Pocatello, Idaho. His service is also commemorated at the Veterans Plaza in Spring Canyon Park in Fort Collins, Colo., and the Go for Broke Monument in Los Angeles.

He married the love of his life, Toshie "Betty" Nishioka, on Jan. 18, 1951. They celebrated their 70th anniversary in January. They raised three children on a farm in Blackfoot, Idaho, where they grew potatoes, raised Hereford cattle and had a series of dachshunds all named Sammy. He loved to ride his horse and check on the cattle, especially in the spring when they were calving. He won numerous awards for the quality of his potato and sugar beet crops, and he used the award money to take his family on trips to Disneyland.

Because Jack was unable to finish his own education, he prioritized education for his children. He encouraged his children (and grandchildren) to seize every opportunity to expand their knowledge. Jack and Betty put their children through undergraduate, graduate and medical school. They sold cattle when the kids needed extra money and used horse trailers to move them to their various colleges across the country.

Despite the prejudice he faced as a Japanese American, and the challenges he faced as a farmer, he never complained or held a grudge. He was quiet grace. Jack enjoyed simple pleasures: secret gas station ice cream cones (and forgetting to wipe the chocolate evidence off his chin), quiet naps in the potato fields under the Idaho sky, and boisterous card games with his children, grandchildren and friends. His one extravagance was a diamond ring he wore proudly when he played cards.

Jack drove other seniors to play bridge at the Blackfoot Senior Citizens Center. He was a devoted member of the Jason Lee Memorial United Methodist Church in Blackfoot, as well as a lifetime member of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). In 2015, he and Betty moved to Fort Collins to be closer to their daughter Jacquelyn.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, and three children: Bruce Tominaga in Sandy, Utah, Dr. Julie Tominaga (Dr. Kevin Coulter) in Davis, Calif., and Jacquelyn Niedringhaus (Scott Niedringhaus) in Fort Collins. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Kiera Coulter, Dr. Andrew Tominaga, Katie Tominaga, Cassa Niedringhaus and Elise Niedringhaus.

He was laid to rest in a private ceremony due to the pandemic, and the family thanks everyone for their kindness during this time. In remembrance of Jack's life, consider making a donation to the Blackfoot (Idaho) Jason Lee Memorial Methodist Church www.umoi.org/churchdetail/350394 or the National Veteran's Network www.nationalveteransnetwork.com, whose mission is to preserve, educate and advocate how the Japanese American World War II soldiers' loyalty, courage and patriotism embody American values and shape future decisions about justice and equality in our democracy.

PLACE A TRIBUTE
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