

MEMORIAM

TRIBUTE

JOSEPH SETO



Joseph Tobey Seto, Ph.D., passed away peacefully in his sleep Feb. 23, 2021, in Los Angeles. He was 96. Born in Tacoma, Wash., Joe's microbiology and virology career spanned 55 years as professor at Cal State Univ. Los Angeles and researcher at the University of Giessen, Germany. He enjoyed his students,

research, golf, fishing, travel and ice cream.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Grace Seto; daughter, Susan (Mark); grandchildren Emily and Alex; son, Steven Seto; and sister, Grace (Richard) Okita, of Honolulu; and many nieces, nephews and relatives.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to honor Joe with donations to the Joseph T. Seto Microbiology Scholarship at campaign.calstatela.edu/give.

TRIBUTE

HARRY HARUMI HIGAKI



Harry Higaki, 101, of Hillsborough, Calif., passed away peacefully in his home Dec. 16, 2021, with his children by his side. Born in San Francisco on Aug. 29, 1920, Harry was the eldest son of the late Nobuo Higaki and Motoko Kubouchi, and he graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City (1938) and attended Heald Business College in San Francisco.

In 1942, following Executive Order 9066, Harry was forced to lease the family business and relocate his family to Kimberly, Idaho, where he

was drafted to the Military Intelligence Service and sent to Fort Snelling, Minn., for language training. In 1947, he was honorably discharged as a U.S. Army sergeant after serving in the Counter Intelligence Corps in Kobe, Japan, where he met and married the love of his life, the late Sachiko Iwai Higaki, on Oct. 7, 1949. Harry and Sachiko were married for 67 years.

In the postwar years, Harry incorporated and expanded the family nursery into Bay City Flower Co., which distributed flowers nationwide. To the end, he remained grateful for the company's long-time employees, customers and vendors. In 1994, he was named Flower Marketer of the Year by the Produce Marketing Association. He was also named Farmer of the Year (1990, 1998) by the San Mateo County Farm Bureau and Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce.

In 2011, Harry received the Nisei Soldiers of World War II Congressional Gold Medal in belated recognition of his service to the United States. He was a man of steadfast faith and a founding member of Peninsula Free Methodist Church (now Peninsula Hope Church).

Harry was a devoted, loving father and a friend to many. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Harrison Higaki (Heidi), Sharon Okamoto (John) and Audrey Sakai (Perry), seven grandchildren and their spouses, and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Naomi Higaki, Aiko Joo, and Emiko Hamai. Harry was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sachiko, his daughter Lois Toyo Higaki, his parents, and his brothers, Juichi and Shigeru.

Private services. Donations in honor of his memory may be made to Peninsula Hope Church, Redwood City or the Japanese American Citizens League.

WARREN MINAMI DIES AT 83



Dr. Warren Nori Minami of Potomac, Md., died Jan. 9 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md., according to next of kin. He was 83.

According to his family, Minami's death was a result of Covid-19.

"Warren was one of those people who brought the community together," said JAACL Executive Director David Inoue. "His home was always open and available to host any type of gathering, especially through his leadership with

the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

"He always wanted what was good for the Japanese American community and was supportive of bringing in new leadership, knowing when he needed to assert himself, but also when to raise up someone else."

Minami was born in San Francisco in 1938. As a child, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River War Relocation Authority Center in Arizona during World War II.

After being released from the camp in 1943, the Minami family moved to Detroit and then settled in Washington, D.C., in 1945. Minami later graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., and after moving to California, he graduated from San Jose State College. He served as an officer in the Air Force from 1962-65.

Minami also earned his Ph.D. in business administration from American University and was a retired senior executive with the International Monetary Fund.

As a young man, he won numerous awards competing in judo, in which he held a third-degree black belt. He was a member of San Jose State's storied judo team and competed for a spot on the U.S. Olympic judo team when the sport was introduced in 1964. He took first place in the 165-pound division of the Air Force Worldwide Judo Championship in 1965.

Minami's Asian American community involvement included serving on the board of governors of the Japanese American National Museum and as the chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. He also was appointed to the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs under Gov. Robert Ehrlich.

"Warren was instrumental in helping to build the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II on the National Mall," said John Tobe, chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. "Thanks to Warren's vision and leadership, visitors of the memorial will learn about the Nisei's sacrifices and patriotism for years to come."

Minami was also a longtime member of a number of other community organizations, including the JAACL and the Japanese American Veterans Assn.

Among his hobbies, Minami enjoyed playing cards and was an avid golfer, eventually serving as president of the board of the Bretton Woods Recreation Center. "If you ever wanted to go golfing, he was always the person to get a tee time," Inoue said.

Minami is survived by his wife,

TRIBUTE

OLIVER NISHIMURA



Oliver Nishimura (Hayward, Calif.) passed away in June 2021. He was born in 1922 in San Lorenzo, Calif., graduated from Hayward High School and attended business college. In 1942, he evacuated with his family to Idaho, then Colorado, and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army in 1943. He was in Co. K of the 442nd RCT and was injured during the battle to rescue the Texas Lost Battalion. After the war, he married Michiko in 1947. He worked at the San Lorenzo Nursery Co. and retired as manager of their San Jose floral supply store. He was an active member of the San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church since its inception in 1929 for which his grandparents, Kumaichiro and Masuno Shinoda donated the building and land.

He is survived by his wife, Michiko; daughters Valerie (Bruce Satow), Stephanie and Erin; in-laws Irene Nishimura, Nori Komorita, Yo Hazama, Taro and Mary Ishimoto, Susan and Morris Nakamura and other extended family. He was predeceased by his siblings, Luther, Samuel, Edith Sato and Roy.

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