

**Kamikawa, Jo Ann Sayoko, 70**, Torrance, CA, April 19; she is survived by her sisters-in-law, Keiko Kamikawa and Haruko Kamikawa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and many other relatives.



**Okada, Blanche Haruyo, 102**, Garden Grove, CA, Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Yutaka; siblings, Mabel Iguchi, Mary Morikawa and George Ochi; she is survived by her children, Donald (Denise) Okada and Sherie (Jay) Kato; sister, Alice Miyamoto; sister-in-law, Namiye Okada; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Nishida, Beryl, 82**, Clearfield, PA, March 11; she is survived by her husband, Edward; children, Scott Edward Nishida (fiancee, Heather), James (Candy) Nishida and Jennifer (Jeff) Bowen; gc: 11; ggc: 7.

**Shintaku, Kristi Y., 53**, Los Angeles, CA, April 11; she is survived by her husband, Norman; daughters, Nicole, Kelli and Natalie; parents, Raymond and Betty Toyama; brother, Greg (Minh) Toyama.

TRIBUTE

**Katagiri, Iao Masami, 70**, Los Angeles, CA, April 29; B.A., UC Berkeley; M.P.A., Harvard; she was predeceased by her sister, Grace; she is survived by her sister, Laurie Katagiri-Hoshino.

**Matsuno, Amy, 88**, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Miki; she is survived by her children, Mike (Stella Maxwell), Susan (Patrick) Soken and Charlene (Brian Furuto) Takeno; brothers, Dickey Hamasaki (Fran) and James Hamasaki (Linda); gc: 4.

**Miyake, Jack, 92**, Gardena, CA, Jan. 16; he is survived by his wife, Chieko; children, Lylis (Michael) Taggart, Elaine Miyake and Neal (Miki) Miyake; gc: 3.

**Miyahira, Glenn T. 'Smiley, 69**, Wailuku, HI, Jan. 25; veteran (Air Force); he is survived by his children, Scott Miyahira and Kelsey Miyahira; former spouse, Gail Miyahira; brother, Abel (Clarice) Miyahira.



**Nakashima, Jean, 83**, Colma, CA, Feb. 25; she is survived by her husband, Yoshio; brother, Ken (Rebecca) Takahashi; children, Karen, Paula and Steven; gc: 2.

**Nakashima, Richard, 86**, Kaneohe, HI, Dec. 25, 2021.

**GEORGE H. INOUE**



May 23, 1919-Jan. 11, 2022

George H. Inouye passed away peacefully at his home in Yuba City, Calif., on Jan. 11, 2022, at age 102-3/4. He is survived by his sister, Mary "Mel" Tsuji, four children, Joanne Inouye, Wayne Inouye (Shannon), Mitzi Nakashima and Julie Inouye (Dr. Michael Rubottom), seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and several amazing caregivers. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty (1992), his parents (Sadame and Tamaye Inouye), and siblings, John Inouye, Ann Kodama and Lily Moritsugu.

George was born outside Stockton, Calif., on May 23, 1919; he graduated from Sacramento High in 1938 and attended Yuba Community College. George, his siblings and their Issei parents were interned at Amache Camp in Granada, Colo. In 1942, George enlisted in the Army and served with the Military Intelligence Service as a translator and photographer. He was honored with a Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.

George was a farmer in Yuba City from 1947 until his retirement in 1993. Mechanically minded since he was a child, George repaired cars, trucks and other farm equipment. He even invented several designs for tractor attachments, which John Deere uses today. After the war, he served on numerous agricultural boards in northern California. Additionally, George was an active volunteer in the community, frequently serving on the boards of the Marysville Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Marysville Buddhist Church, Northern California District Church Board and Yuba City Lions Club. George was honored with numerous awards from each of these organizations. He served on the school board of trustees for Central Gaither Elementary from 1958-70 and was a member of the VFW Nisei Post No. 8985 since 1948. He was also one of eight directors helping improve the California Board of the Bracero program from 1956-59. He personally sponsored three men who eventually became U.S. citizens.

Memorial Services and a Celebration of George's Life will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Marysville Buddhist Church, 125 B St., Marysville, CA 95901. Face masks, proof of Covid vaccination and temperature check required upon entering the church. In lieu of flowers, donations in the memory of George Inouye may be made to the Marysville Buddhist Church, the Marysville JACL (P.O. Box 2253, Marysville, CA 95901) or a charity of your choice.

**Wakamoto, Charles, 83**, Irvine, CA, April 5; B.A., M.A. (UCLA); he is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Craig (Karen) Wakamoto, Ken (Dana) Wakamoto and Sue (Bryan) Wakamoto-Lee; gc: 8.

**Yamashita, Isamu, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, March 7; he is survived by his wife, Katsuko; children, Sharon (Wayne) Metzger, Kelly (David Ortega) Yamashita and Jeffrey (Cheryl) Yamashita; gc: 5.

TRIBUTE

**SATORU SAKUMA**



Satoru (Sat) Sakuma, 96, passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 17, 2022.

Sat was born Oct. 28, 1925, on Bainbridge Island, Wash., to Takeo and Nobu Sakuma. He was one of 10 children, eight brothers and two sisters. Sat attended school and worked on the family strawberry farm until the evacuation in 1942. Executive Order 9066 required all persons of Japanese descent, including U.S. citizens, to be

evacuated out of certain zones and relocated to internment camps. Bainbridge Island was the first zone evacuated, the Sakuma family were one of the first families relocated to internment in Manzanar, Calif. At the time of evacuation, Sat was 15 and a freshman in high school. After the first year in camp, the family was relocated to Minidoka, Idaho, to join the remaining Japanese Americans that were evacuated from Washington. This is where Sat first met his future wife, Kazuko (Grace) Arima. Grace's family was interned in an adjacent block in Minidoka—Grace's family returned to Idaho after the war.

In the fall of 1944, at the age of 18, Sat was drafted into the United States Army. With both apprehension and excitement, he boarded the train to Fort Blanding, Fla., for basic training. Sat served his tour of duty with the segregated Japanese American 442nd combat team in the European Theater, both in the infantry and as a radio operator. Additionally, two of Sat's brothers also served in the 442nd as three other brothers served in Military Intelligence during the war. By the end of the war, the 442nd infantry was the highest decorated army unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The mantra of the 442nd was "Go for Broke," as they put everything on the line both in the war abroad and as well as the fight against racism and discrimination.

After the war, the family moved to the Skagit Valley where the older Sakuma brothers had already started farming strawberries — Sat along with his five brothers started Sakuma Bros. Farms, which continues today, as the legacy is continued by the third and fourth generation of Sakuma Family members. Under Sat and his brother's leadership, the Sakuma Family business developed a reputation of excellence in the small fruit industry and as leaders in the community.

After returning to the Skagit Valley, Sat and Grace were married on December 6, 1954, and had four children who were raised on the family farm. Sat continued to work on the farm throughout his career even keeping his desk at the office until the very end.

Sat loved attending sporting events with friends and family. He also had a passion for gardening that he meticulously maintained well into his 90s before recruiting help to keep up with a beautiful dahlia and daffodil display in addition to a robust vegetable and fruit offering. Sat loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and religiously attended all their sporting and extracurricular events. Spending time with family meant everything to him.

Sat will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Sat is survived by his two sisters, Lucy Ota and Lillian Aoyama, four children, Bryan (Barb) Sakuma of Burlington, Becky (Ken) Ogata of Seattle, Carol (Cliff) Schroeder of Anacortes and Glenn (Kimberly) Sakuma of Burlington; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Preceding his death were his wife, Grace; parents, Takeo and Nobu; and seven brothers.

Viewing will be June 2, 2022, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hawthorne Funeral Home, Mount Vernon, Wash.

A memorial service will be held June 3, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Bethany Covenant Church, Mount Vernon, Wash.

Memorial donations in Sat's name can be made, in lieu of flowers, to the Skagit Valley Hospital foundation, Skagit County Fire District 5-Allen Dept, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC), Ashely Gardens.

Please visit [www.hawthornefh.com](http://www.hawthornefh.com) to share your thoughts and memories and sign the online guest register.

Arrangements are under the care of Hawthorne Funeral Home, Mount Vernon, Wash.

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