

# In MEMORIAM

(Editor's Note: Boldfaced names in blue in the PDF version of this page are active hyperlinks to published obituaries for the decedent.)

**Adachi, Shunji, 91**, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 9, 2024.



**Arita, John Tadashi, 69**, Manteca, CA, Jan. 14.

**Buffington, Yumiko, 71**, Portales, NM, Feb. 15.



**Furuichi, Satoko, 86**, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 9.

**Hamakawa, Tsurue, 95**, Sacramento, CA, March 19.



**Hatano, Masayuki, 97**, Sacramento, CA.

**Higashi, Nancy Nobuko, 88**, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 2, 2024.

**Ikeda, Kiyoko, 103**, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 30, 2024.

**Ito, Warren, 57**, Lodi, CA, Nov. 18, 2024.



**Masada, Gregg, 58**, Monterey Park, CA, Feb. 19.



**Masuda, Merlyn K., 90**, Las Vegas, NV, Jan. 22.

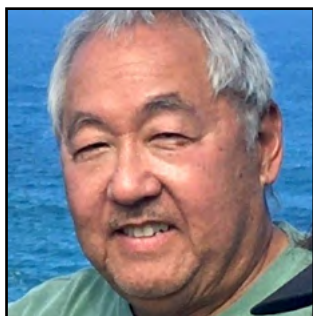


**Kagawa, Jason Allen, 49**, Fresno, CA, Oct. 2, 2024.

**Kasahara, Shizuko Rose, 105**, Milwaukie, OR, Nov. 5, 2024.



**Kashiwagi, Dean Takeo, 72**, Mesa, AZ, April 1.



**Kawabata, Kenneth Kengo, 70**, Colma, CA, Oct. 31, 2024.

**Kawamoto, Galen Hideo, 77**, Portland, OR, August 6, 2024.

**Kuroda, Shizuna Janet, 88**, Roseville, CA, Feb. 2.



**Matsumoto, Nancy Eleanor, 52**, Yuma, AZ, March 6.



**Miller, Kyoko, 94**, Seattle, WA, Feb. 9.

**Mitani, Nellie Narie, 105**, South Pasadena, CA, Jan. 11.

**Nishitsuji, Gary, 72**, Rosemead, CA, Dec. 31, 2024.

**Okada, Emiko, 87**, Renton WA, May 20, 2024.

**Otani, Yaeko, 93**, Fountain Valley, CA, Feb. 26.

**Suyenaga, Umeko M., 90**, Roseville, CA, Feb. 10.

**Vanderhaeghen, Kimiko, 96**, Santa Maria, CA, March 20.

## Mineta Pal Sen. Alan Simpson, 93, Dies



**Former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and former Rep. Norm Mineta**

PHOTO: RAY LOCKER

**CHEYENNE, WYO. (AP)** — Former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson, a political legend whose quick wit bridged partisan gaps in the years before today's political acrimony, has died. He was 93.

Simpson died March 14 after struggling to recover from a broken hip in December, according to a statement from his family and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, a group of museums where he was a board member for 56 years.

"My family will remember him best not for his many accomplishments, but for his loyal friendship — and sharp sense of humor," said former President George W. Bush said in a statement.

A political moderate by current

standards, Simpson's three terms as senator from 1979-97 covered the Republican Party's rejuvenation under President Ronald Reagan. Simpson played a key role rallying GOP senators around the party's legislative agenda as a top Senate leader during that time.

His Democratic friends included Robert Reich, labor secretary under President Bill Clinton, and Norman Mineta, transportation secretary under President George W. Bush.

Simpson and Mineta met as Boy Scouts when Mineta and his family were imprisoned as Japanese Americans in the Heart Mountain War Relocation Authority Center near Simpson's hometown of Cody, Wyo., during World War II.

After leaving politics, both promoted awareness of the incarceration of some 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry in camps during the war.

By 1995, he'd had enough of the Senate and decided not to run again.

After leaving the Senate, Simpson taught about politics and the media at Harvard University and the University of Wyoming. In speeches he often urged college students to be politically involved.

In 2022, President Joe Biden awarded Simpson the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Simpson is survived by his wife, Ann; his brother, Pete Simpson; sons, Colin Simpson and William Simpson; and daughter, Susan Simpson Gallagher.

## Former La. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston Dies

By P.C. Staff

J. Bennett Johnston, who served Louisiana as a senator for 24 years, died March 25 at a McLean, Va.-hospital. He was 92. According to family members, the cause of death was attributed to complications from Covid-19.

Known as a conservative Democrat who was able to work across party lines and as "the man to see" with regard to energy policy — he was a champion of the United States' Strategic Petroleum Reserve — he was also among 69 senators who July 27, 1988, voted "yes" on a reconciled version of HR 442.

Also known as the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the bill, which was later approved by the House of Representatives on Aug. 4, 1988, then

went to the White House. President Reagan signed it Aug. 10, 1988. Its enactment led to an apology and monetary compensation to still-living Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from the West Coast and subsequently incarcerated in government-operated facilities.

At the time, Johnston served on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; he also served as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

In 1990, Johnston received the endorsement of Republican senators during his closest re-election bid when former Ku Klux Klan member David Duke ran for the same seat. Johnston declined to run again in 1996.

## News Briefs

### Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi to Run for Superintendent of Public Instruction

The four-term Democrat who represented Los Angeles County's South Bay and now faces term limits, has announced his 2026 bid to become the state's next superintendent of public instruction. ¶ The Justice Department accused Army 1st Lt. Li Tian of conspiring with former soldier Ruoyu Duan of sharing classified military information with China. Also indicted was Army Sgt. Jian Zhao for selling government hard drives, including ones marked "Top Secret," to Chinese buyers.

— P.C. Staff

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