

Dear Friend *Atsuko Sama, Takeo Sama,*

Henri passed away by heart attack on Tuesday, April 16, 2002. It was a sudden shock, but he had been failing for some time and seemed to expect the end. Henri was awake, sitting on the edge of the bed dressing for the day, when he was stricken, laid back, and was gone. He passed without any suffering. It was very sudden about seven a.m. Enclosing for you is some information on the beautiful twilight service for Henri at 6 o'clock Monday April 22nd.

The Memorial Service took place in the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Memorial Hall, which is a gymnasium at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. It is dedicated to us as donors of the fund to build it.

On the wall is a plaque of dedication constructed a few years ago. The podium was arranged as an altar with Henri's portrait enlarged to 20" x 24". The photo was taken in 1998. His photo was surrounded by orchid leis, other beautiful flowers and lighted candles.

Allen Okamoto, President of the Culture Center was chairman and a candle-lighting ceremony opened the service. Dick Yamagami, also a dear friend, entered the hall going down the center of the aisle with a lighted taper candle, and lighted the candles on both sides, followed by myself, Norman and Pinkie lighting the big candles.

Many kind and gentle messages were spoken after Philip Gotanda gave Henri's life history and some episodes. Both Philip, his wife Diane Takei, and Hatsuro Aizawa are my relatives, distantly related.

Harry and his wife, Bernie came from Washington to attend the service, the son lives and works near here and provided transportation for Harry and Bernie. They were seated with the family in the front row, closest to Henri.

A lady, Lita Swiryn from the San Francisco Towers, where we live, also spoke. Kuni ^{Takeshita} Takishita is also my distant relative.

As Henri desired, he was cremated and there will be a ceremony later by ship to scatter his ashes at sea, as he wished. Almost four hundred people attended a one-hour service, which was followed by a generous supper in the lower hall. Henri's favorite foods, Japanese, Chinese and Western foods were beautifully served surrounded by more floral displays. His favorite music was being played softly in the background. The friends and staff of the Culture Center, with the Executive Director, Paul Osaki directing and planning, organized all arrangements, and designed the program.

Acknowledgements and O-Koden-gaeshi has been done. Many wreaths and arrangements arrived and memorial donations were made in Henri's memory to local churches and organizations by his many friends. In return, we made donations in Henri's name to local organizations and churches. Sunday morning April 21st, 11 a.m., a Christian service at the Chapel of San Francisco Towers included remembrance of the deceased Henri Takahashi.

Numerous business associates in Japan sent flowers, messages and remembrances.

We regret you were unable to be present at the community ceremony to say good-bye to Henri.

The service was called "Celebration of Life, Henri Hiroyuki Takahashi, Memorial Service".

Some sympathy cards are still coming in by mail from people who knew him even slightly.

Henri was a very loving and good father to Norman and Pinkie and a most wonderful, gentle and patient husband to me. We had a long and happy marriage full of good memories, and I was a very lucky wife.

We were married in July of 1941 after we met by introduction in 1938 in San Francisco. Then in December of the year we were married, Pearl Harbor was bombed and early years were spent in the Utah dessert Topaz internment camp where our two children were born.

After having worked very hard, we came to live our final years in a small but cozy apartment in the San Francisco Towers where Henri really enjoyed conveniences of relaxed daily life. We continued to "go to work" a few hours each day to the office where he watched TV, ate a nice Japanese lunch, and ran the paper shredding machine to supply our warehouse with this packing material. His happiest time of day was dinnertime when he enjoyed his double dessert of cake or pie with a generous amount of ice cream. It was appropriate to hold his farewell service at twilight time - his dessert time. I'm sure he was watching from heaven.

May he rest in peace, Dear Henri. He will be missed very much.

Yours,

Tomoye

Tomoye

Sunday, April 28, 2002

Enclosures

武雄様 節子様

このたびは大いなる御心配をおかけ致しまして誠に
すみませんでした。又決山の御香典も心から御礼申し上げます。
葬儀目録から早やねと 23名様からお送り下さい
誠にありがとうございました。

其の後は私は休をとりまして今日もまた良くお引
きません。何時までもお香典が元々そのは方事は出来ません
のでおちがりにいたしたりと思ひますがお願いをどうぞお聞き
下さいませ。大いなるお香典をおかけ下さるので本意は
すまなく思ひますがお願いしたけりなうなりのかどうもついでに
何時でもお祈りをお待ちしております
心からありがとうございます。どうぞ良うしく

右取付

お決りなごは-Englishでまことにありがとうございます。

謹啓

時下益々御清祥の段大慶至極に存じに付ます。
陳者先般夫高橋ヘンリーの 永眠の際は
御懇篤なる御弔詞を以て、御鄭重に
御香志を賜りまして御喪限の程誠に有難く
御礼申しに付ます。

去る四月二十二日告別式を相営みまして、
供養の印を以て聊か心はかりの品お届け致し
何卒御受納下さいませよう御款い申しに付
先は略儀ながら書中を以て謹んで
御禮申しに付ます。

敬具

二〇〇二年四月