

MARY
MASUNAGA
FUJIMOTO

July 12, 1921 -
October 22, 2017



GEORGE
KAZUO
FUJIMOTO

January 13, 1920 -
March 21, 2018

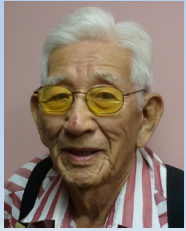
A Celebration of Life



need this info

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017
4:00 P.M.
PARKWAY PLACE
1321 PARK BAYOU DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77077





GEORGE KAZUO FUJIMOTO

Colusa, CA **1.13.1920 - 3.21.2018** Houston, Texas

98 Years Young

George Kazuo Fujimoto was born to Tsuya Miyoshi and Tadao Fujimoto. George went peacefully in his sleep to the Lord early on Tuesday morning, March 21, 2018. He is survived by a daughter, Donna, 6 grandchildren: Mindy, Bryan, Brent, Tami, Chandra and Cheryl, with 7 great grandchildren, and by his siblings, Harley, Willie, Marie, and Doris. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary and two sons, Gerald and Walter and by siblings Miyo and Mitsuo "Roy". He is also survived by many nieces, and nephews.

George worked on the farm with his family in the Fort Lupton Colorado area until drafted into the Army in March of 1942, where he served at Camp Robinson Arkansas and Fort Riley, Kansas assigned to KP duty. When President Roosevelt visited Fort Riley, all of the Japanese American Soldiers were rounded up and placed in their barrack while their fellow soldiers pointed guns at them. This is when he decided he could not take the discrimination any longer. He heard about the segregated Japanese American Battalion being formed and so he, along with others, requested a transfer to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team where he was transferred to Camp Shelby, MS. There he repeated basic training and was assigned to a Service Company in Alabama. He was a guard, watching over prisoners who were German officers captured in North Africa. He was injured in a truck accident and was sent to Fitzsimons Army hospital, where Mary Masunaga and her girlfriends visited the soldiers to cheer them up and that is where she met George. They married on June 8, 1946 in Colorado Springs, Co. Their sons, Gerald and Walter were born in Greeley, Colorado. In 1952, their daughter Donna was born in Denver and they moved to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. George and his parents and siblings purchased 40 acres of farm land and 20 acres of citrus. There was a drought and all the crops were lost. He farmed, cotton, cabbage, onions, carrots, lettuce, green peppers, cantaloupe, and tomatoes from Pharr to Rio Grande City. Eventually he contracted vegetables from farmers throughout Texas and into Central Mexico for Brown and Miller, Frito-Lay and Campbell Soup. He also spoke Spanish. He loved bowling and worked part time at the Grapefruit Bowl in the off season. While on the road he took his bowling ball to towns where he could substitute to bowl on their leagues.

George started a junk yard called FETCO, (Fujimoto Equipment and Tractor Company) in Mission, Texas behind the house. He had to close and sell the equipment as the property was deemed eminent domain for a highway.

In 1970, he bought an abandoned bowling center in Uvalde, Texas where he purchased used equipment and started remodeling to open Uvalde Bowling Center in the spring of 1971. He made table bases from cultivators, as George was quite good at repurposing used materials with a welder and a cutting torch. He created handrails and decorative bowling balls, pins and signs. George used his saws, nails, screws and glue to make a front desk, with shoe racks and ball carriers. He repaired the bowling machines and played cards with friends. He played poker every week with friends and served home cooked meals prepared by Mary or George. They played cards or dominoes whenever they were not working. They also had a garden in their back yard.

Mary and George made many friends and they took hundreds of trips with their bowlers to bowling tournaments across the country. During their 37 years at Uvalde Bowling Center, he became a collector of: writing pens, money clips, watches, pocket knives, etc. George also made canes, clocks, vases, lamps, helicopters and puzzles. He advocated to his siblings the need for family reunions.

Yes, in his day George was a good bowler and a fair pool player. He qualified as an ABC Senior Bowler in the Reno Senior's National Tournament in May of 2005.

In January 2006, George and Mary moved to Houston, after selling Uvalde Bowling Center with the help of their many dear friends. At 86, George continued to work in Houston started Vibrant Vitality of Houston giving Vibe treatments to people who needed to detox, relieve pain, sleep better, and gain movement in their joints.

One of his proudest moments was receiving the Congressional Gold Medal for the Japanese American Soldiers during WWII who served in the 100th infantry battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence.

In October 2015, George gave his life to Jesus Christ and claim God as his heavenly father. He was baptized at Parkway Place with many friends as his witness and a celebration of his new life took place.

George gained many new friends in Houston during the last 11 years and enjoyed many parties, gambling, talking, galas, plays, concerts and museums with them and flirting with women. He was a fixer upper, a creative improviser, used his hands to make wooden objects, a collector, a bargain hunter, a prankster, and he brought smiles and laughter to people. That's why we are celebrating George's life.

Thank you for being in George's life. May we all meet again in a better place for eternity. Rest in peace George Kazuo Fujimoto. Now an Angel in God's Kingdom as his second carpenter creating gifts made from wood.





MARY M. MASUNAGA FUJIMOTO

Welby, Colorado 7.12.1921 – 10.22.2017 Houston, Texas

96 Years Young

Mary M. Masunaga Fujimoto was born to Mr. Magoki and Taki Sasa Masunaga. Mary went to the Lord during the early morning on Sunday, October 22, 2017. She was a sister to four siblings Yoshiyei, in Japan and George, Jess and, John. She is survived by her daughter Donna, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her two sons Gerald and Walter. She is also survived by many loving cousins, nieces and nephews and friends that she shared her cute smile while shrugging her shoulders.

From a young age she was an avid reader and cherished the company of friends. Her teenage years were spent enjoying the Colorado countryside with her friends, movies, and dances. She took her Dad fishing and drove the carefully loaded truck of cabbage by Jess to the market. She was recognized for her academic achievements in writing and spelling at Brighton High School. After graduating she received her cosmetologist license in Colorado.

In June of 1945 she married George Fujimoto. In 1952, they moved to South Texas with their two Sons and Daughter. She practiced cosmetology in Texas for a while, and realized that this profession left her less than satisfied. Realizing her passion for cooking amazing meals, she began working at the McAllen High School cafeteria mopping floors and washing pots in order to work her way up to become the Manager of the Cafeteria and Nutritionist. She loved her summers cooking for the Boy Scouts at Camp Strake and won cooking contests with renowned chefs from around the country, receiving a hibachi grill for third place for her awesome Crispy Turkey & Almond dish. She loved being with people, traveling and sightseeing on bowling tournament trips throughout the US. Mary was thoughtful and loved writing letters to friends and loved ones; never forgetting to send cards on special occasions. She loved a good joke and often told stories of her sweet memories growing up in Colorado.



During holidays, she would take canned food and clothes to the less fortunate. She shared her Japanese etiquette and traditions with her family. In 1971, Mary and George moved from McAllen, Texas to Uvalde as proprietors of Uvalde Bowling Center. They spent 37 years operating the bowling center, making wonderful friendships until retiring in 2006 and moving to Houston. There, they made new friends for her to share her cute smile and caring ways. Often you would find her on her iPad emailing, looking at pictures, playing words with friends, solitaire, bowling and blackjack. She loved exploring new foods, and accompanying Donna to various venue events and JACL gatherings in Houston.

Hearing was an issue as a result of many years working in the cafeteria and bowling alley. Hearing aids were barely increasing her ability to hear so she smiled and nodded yes, a lot, and we would all have some pretty funny conversations. She stayed connected to friends by writing and emailing.

She is a Christian and baptized in the Methodist Church. At Parkway Independent Living, she was part of Virginia's weekly prayer group and attended Vesper services regularly, she was adamant about her exercise classes, Tai Chi, using the elliptical machine, receiving massages, walking and frequenting the beauty shop. She loved to buy quilts at Parkway for new babies and see what was in the display cases about her fellow residents and read the newsletter. She made lots of new friends and enjoyed playing Skip Bo with them, and Mexican Train. She blessed many with her smile and when able shared jokes, articles, recipes, candy, letters and small gifts. She was constantly visiting others who were sick, keeping friends and family close by sending note cards.

Thank you for being in Mary's life. May we all meet again in a better place for eternity. Rest in peace Mary Masunaga Fujimoto. An Angel in God's Kingdom as his daughter of thoughtfulness.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude – Wait There.....Bryan Nakagawa

Musical Selection – Jesus Loves Me..... Bryan Nakagawa
Jesus Loves all the Little Children

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Pastor Bill Moore

Scripture Readings

Old Testament – Psalm 23.....Ruby Hada

New Testament – Matthew 5:1-12.....Allyson Goto

Musical Selection – Amazing GraceAll

Poem Readings

The Dash Poem.....Patrick Money penny

FootprintsLi Yi Money penny

Pastor's Message.....Pastor Bill Moore

Slideshow Tribute

The Lord's Prayer..... All

Family Appreciation.....Tami Cole

Recessional Music - You'll Never Walk Alone..... Bryan Nakagawa

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank you all and acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

Love,
Donna Cole, Bob Berryman and Tami Cole