



Atsumi Murray

November 23, 1923 - January 26, 2019

Atsumi Murray passed away in her home with her 2 daughters by her side. She was 95. She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii of immigrant parents. She was second generation Okinawan-Japanese. Some years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, she met her husband, James Murray. They started a family, and made their way to the islands of Micronesia. Starting on Wake Island, then Saipan, Belau, Pohnpei and Truk, they spent more than 30 years in the Trust Territory. Atsumi ran the post offices on the islands of Belau and Pohnpei.

She was a marvelous cook and could have a big feast on the table by dinner time after a day at work. She often hosted dinners for friends, other government workers, newcomers to the island, members of the Catholic Mission, Military personnel, and Peace Corp Volunteers. She was a skilled seamstress and sewed all the family clothes, from aloha shirts to shorts. She loved shells and had an amazing collection. She would spend hours on the reefs, sometimes with toddlers in tow, racing the tide. She did not swim.

She moved to Oregon, where she lived for 35 years. She worked as a bookkeeper before retiring, using the first of Apple computers. She loved travelling with her family, visiting with her grandchildren, cooking and baking, growing flowers in her garden, collecting stamps and coins, and reading. She was a fan of the 49ers and enjoyed watching sports. She was strong, quiet, thoughtful and always so generous. She had a sharp mind and lived independently until her death.

She is survived by her 5 children, John, Ed, Anna, Denise and James, her 8 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and 3 great, great grandchildren.

She will be forever missed.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gerald Murray - February 17, 2019 at 07:55 PM



“ We met Sumi and her family on Pohnpei when we moved there in 1969. She was the nexus of the community at the Post Office; when we heard a plane come in everyone would rush to the PO while Sumi sorted the mail. It was a great social occasion for all of us. She was a wonderful person, friendly smiling no matter how tired she was.

Our children got to know Deni and Kimo, and our oldest daughter, Tammy and Deni are still friends after all that time. Deni left Hawaii in the late 70s and moved to Roberts.

When Sumi moved to Corvallis she immediately got a job in a strange new place working. She was a very adaptable, highly skilled person and we will miss her smile and her sweet personality.

Our thoughts are with Deni, Jerry and Eva, and the rest of the Murray family. She had a good long life is resting in peace on a cloud in the sunshine!

Love from Sandy and Roy Rider

Sandy Rider - February 17, 2019 at 03:41 PM



“ I have memories of being a kid and waiting at the post office for the mail to be sorted. When the plane became into Pohnpei, everyone gathered to wait for Sumi and Rosie to sort the mail. It was an event in our week. Everyone knew Sumi!

During her life in Corvallis, if feel privileged to have a friendship with Sumi. Working at the library I was able to make sure she had large print books, she was a voracious reader right to the end of her life.

I will treasure the crocheted pieces that she has given to me, I always marveled at all that she had going on. Even when it was hard for her to get around.

Deni, it is a beautiful gift you gave your mom. With your constant care she was able to die at home. Thank you for the days, weeks, months and years of checking in on and caring for your Mom. Sumi (Tutu) will be greatly missed.

Tammy Rider - February 17, 2019 at 03:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



McHenry Funeral Home - February 13, 2019 at 12:45 PM



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Denise Murray - February 13, 2019 at 12:43 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



McHenry Funeral Home - February 13, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ I met Sumi's daughter Deni in the spring of 1979, if I am remembering correctly. I could be off by a year, but oh well. Through Deni I had the pleasure of knowing Sumi. She was a delight to visit with. We enjoyed talking of places that I had visited and where she too would like to go. She was even kind enough to let me park my Volkswagen bus in her driveway on one of my extended sightseeing tours and THEN she even put up with me rebuilding its engine in her garage before I moved from Corvallis for the last time. I will always remember her kindness then, and every time I visited her.

Deni, and Gerri, you guys treated her like a queen. Wherever she is now, she is thinking loving thoughts of you and Eva. Aloha, Sumi.

Daniel Hershberger - December 31, 2019 at 12:03 AM



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Gerald Roberts - February 12, 2019 at 05:30 PM



“ Hi,

I'm your cousin, Sheila Greene, oldest daughter of Betty Murray Greene. Sue Keagan posted on Facebook to let the Murray cousins know that your mom has passed away. I'm so sorry I never met my Aunt Atsumi and my Uncle Jim, but if Atsumi made my mom's big brother happy, that's all I need to know. I hope that at least some of us can still meet one day. My condolences to you at this time. Sue told us that your mom had a lot of health problems and I appreciate what must have gone into taking care of her and making her remaining years good ones. All my best to all of you.

Sheila Greene - January 30, 2019 at 03:19 PM