

Kayo Jones

June 17, 1935 – September 20, 2024

Kayo Jones was born to Umejiro and Masae Masuda on June 17, 1935, in Kyoto, Japan, and passed away on September 20, 2024. She was the fourth of seven children. Following her graduation from high school, she worked briefly for a newspaper in Osaka, Japan, after which she worked for the US Army at Camp Otsu near Kyoto. This is where she met her future husband, Larry Jones, who was stationed at Camp Otsu. They were married on April 1, 1958, and enjoyed their more than 66 years of marriage. Kayo's first year of life in America was spent in Alabama where Larry was stationed at Fort Rucker. The couple then moved to Stillwater, OK, and she worked in the OSU Student Union while Larry was a student. Following his graduation, Larry and Kayo moved to Los Alamos, NM. During their time in New Mexico, Kayo became an American citizen; and their first son, Randy, was born. Following their several years of living in New Mexico, they moved to southern California where Larry worked as an aerospace engineer on the Apollo Saturn Program in Huntington Beach while Kayo worked as an electronic assembler for Orbit Electronics in Garden Grove. Toward the end of the Apollo Saturn project, the family moved to Tulsa where Larry was a charter faculty member of the Tulsa Junior College. During their time in Tulsa, Kayo and Larry became parents of two more sons, Roger and Richard. After spending eight years in Tulsa, the Jones family moved to Boumerdes, Algeria, in Northern Africa, where they lived for one year. Their return to Tulsa was short-lived as they moved to Stillwater, OK, where Larry was employed as a faculty member at OSU. For many years, Kayo worked in food service in the Stillwater Public Schools. In 1988, Kayo was honored at both the local and state levels as the Employee of the Year for Educational Support Personnel. Following their return to Stillwater for the last time, Larry and Kayo were very involved in Stillwater's Sister City program with Kameoka, Japan. They were very active in working with and supporting many international OSU students, often hosting them for traditional Japanese meals. Larry and Kayo also spent seven months in Amman, Jordan, and two years in Kameoka, Japan with the OSU-K program. Wherever they lived, Kayo was active in their church and served when and where needed. Over the years, Larry and Kayo were avid travelers. Having visited all 50 states, all 47 prefectures in Japan, and to more than 30 countries. Kayo was preceded in death by an older sister, a brother-in-law, and two younger brothers. She is survived by her husband, Larry, of Stillwater, and her sons Randy of Tulsa; Roger (Lisa) of Stillwater, grandsons Tyler and Nathan; and Richard (Rheana) of Westfield, IN, granddaughters Hannah and Hattie and grandson Ethan. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Carol Dobbs, and two older sisters, Yoshiko Masuda and Toshie Ueno and well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.