



Noriko Asakura Thompson

September 8, 1943 - October 22, 2017

Noriko Thompson passed away on Sunday, October 22. Family and friends call her Riko. She was first and foremost, a brilliant, loving and fun person. Riko was an accomplished fine artist in her youth, both in Japan and the US, graduated by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. She paused her career to raise her two boys, Seiji and Joji. As the boys became young men, she began a twenty-year career teaching Japanese, starting as an adjunct professor at St. Joseph University and Drexel University. Later, she taught at Main Line School Night for several years before conducting private classes.

Riko kept her Japanese culture throughout her life and instilled it into her sons. She was quite proud of her heritage and taught her grandchildren too in the fun ways of Japanese life. She was always good for a gohobi (treat) – kids knew there would be a surprise in her apron pockets.

Riko loved adventure and trips. Because of her physical limitations from several auto accidents, she traveled by car, though she did visit Spain and England with her family, and of course, returned to Japan many times. Every trip had a picnic basket with her in the car, because Riko was a master with all kinds of foods, from snacks to simple gourmet inventions of her own. Most notable, was her facility with a paring knife. Riko was always shaping an apple, carrot or radish. She seemed to bring the Japanese ritual of flower arranging to the way she presented the food she prepared – always balanced,

always delightful.

Most of all, Riko was a reliable advisor and excellent judge of character and accomplishments. She had an unusual perspective that helped people through problems or challenges. Her art, the things she crafted, her students, and the people she befriended benefited from her unusual gifts.

In the end, her self-sacrifice and concern for others before herself, helped lead to her affliction. She bore discomfort for several years without telling anyone. She bore pain in her final days, so she could pass quickly when her troubles finally became unbearable.

Born in Amagasaki, Japan, on September 8, 1943, the last of four children from Morisuke Asakura (née Shigeji Asakura) and Sachiko (née Mitsu Arita), Riko leaves her husband of 42 years, Thomas A., and a growing family. Her sons Seiji and Joji are both married (Janet and Melissa) and gave her grandchildren. Seiji and Janet have two boys, Jack and Oliver. Joji and Melissa have son Jude and twins Kai and Charlotte. One more child is on the way due in December.

Riko is also survived by the wife of her deceased brother Dr. Toshio Asakura, Sumiko, and daughter Emi, living in Philadelphia, and son Kenji. In Japan, she is survived by two nephews by her deceased sister Hayako, named Kazuo and Kinya. And a sister-in-law by her deceased brother Mikio, named Tsugiyo (née Satoko), and her two daughters Kana and Yuka.

Special thanks to the healthcare workers who helped Riko through this passage, especially hospice nurse Barb Kramer from Main Line Health Hospice Care.

Condolences can be made through the Chadwick and McKinney Funeral Home or to the family.

A celebration service will begin with a luncheon on Thursday, October 26, at the Merion Tribute House, 625 Hazelhurst Ave., Merion, PA 19066 beginning

at 12 pm. Stories and comments by her husband and sons will follow around 12:45 pm.

Riko was a great, great person. She we always be alive in our memories.

Previous Events

Life Celebration

OCT **26**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Merion Tribute House
625 Hazelhurst Avenue
Merion Station, PA

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *It is not an understatement to say I wouldn't be living in Japan or speaking Japanese without the kind guidance of this friendly and beautiful woman. Teaching is not a glamorous job but she always did it with a smile and a positive attitude. She will be missed.*

Jim Borden - October 27, 2017 at 08:01 AM

JP

“ *I did not know Riko, but I work with her son Joji. He is a talented and caring professional who helps children every day. Certainly, his expertise and dedication to his students is a powerful tribute to the mother that raised him.*

My sincerest condolences to Riko's family.

Joseph Papeika - October 27, 2017 at 07:45 AM

KO

“ *Riko was always a heartwarming person who, along with her husband, had a magic power to create a positive atmosphere of love and joy in which everybody enjoy the presence of each other and have great fun. I have been and will always be very proud to be one of your nephews, Riko!*

Kazuo Obata - October 26, 2017 at 08:17 AM

FH

“ From her friend, Masako Hamada purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



From her friend, Masako Hamada - October 26, 2017 at 08:16 AM

HK

“ *Hiromi Koyama* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



Hiromi Koyama - October 26, 2017 at 12:23 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness* was purchased for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



October 25, 2017 at 11:42 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath* was purchased for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



October 25, 2017 at 09:44 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



October 25, 2017 at 06:28 PM



“ *Bill & Donna Prawdzik purchased the With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



Bill & Donna Prawdzik - October 25, 2017 at 11:36 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



October 25, 2017 at 10:46 AM



“ *From Satoko Asakura, Yuka Asakura purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



From Satoko Asakura, Yuka Asakura - October 25, 2017 at 08:35 AM

FO

“ From Kinya Obata purchased the *Pink Tribute Spray* for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



From Kinya Obata - October 25, 2017 at 08:04 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity* was purchased for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



October 24, 2017 at 10:37 PM



“ *A Full Life* was purchased for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



October 24, 2017 at 09:45 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of *Noriko Asakura Thompson*.



October 24, 2017 at 09:09 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



October 24, 2017 at 08:05 PM



“ *Naomi, Tabitha, Adam, Nova & Alexandra purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



Naomi, Tabitha, Adam, Nova & Alexandra - October 24, 2017 at 03:13 PM



“ *Tom,
So sorry to hear from Toby about Riko's passing. Please accept our sincere condolences.
Alan and JoEllen Yeasted*

Alan Yeasted - October 24, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ *The Laporte Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.*



The Laporte Family - October 24, 2017 at 01:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.



October 23, 2017 at 09:51 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.



October 23, 2017 at 09:50 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.



October 23, 2017 at 08:05 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections* was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.



October 23, 2017 at 07:34 PM

BL

“ So sorry for your loss. We loved Rio so much and enjoyed all the times she came here to visit. I am sorry for all the times Andy would teased her with the dogs. She will be missed by so many. She made a great impression on everyone in our family. RIP dear niece, say hello to everyone in Heaven. Love you Andy, Bonnie, Doug, Chris & Leslie.

Bonnie Long - October 23, 2017 at 05:44 PM



“ Amazing Arboricola was purchased for the family of Noriko Asakura Thompson.



October 23, 2017 at 04:01 PM