



Robert Kiyoshi Togasaki

July 24, 1932 - November 19, 2019

Robert Kiyoshi Togasaki, 87, passed away Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at Garden Villa in Bloomington.

He was born on July 24, 1932 in San Francisco, California the son of George Kiyoshi and Misu Kanamori Togasaki. The family moved back to Japan in 1933. After finishing Shakuji Elementary School in Tokyo in 1945, he attended Gakushuin High School in Tokyo, where he became a classmate and lifelong friend of the Japanese Emperor Emeritus Akihito.

Bob returned to the United States to attend Phillips Exeter Academy from 1949-52, then Haverford College, from where Bob graduated in 1956. In 1959 Bob would marry the love of his life Fumiko Tomoyama. They were married for fifty-five years. He obtained his PhD in Biochemistry in 1964 from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. In 1964 they would move to Cambridge, MA where Bob began his postdoctoral work at Harvard University.

In 1968 the Togasakis moved to Bloomington, where Bob joined the Botany Department as a Biology Professor until he retired in 1997. He loved people, and biology, and was a volunteer teacher at the Harmony School in Bloomington. He also taught Biology at WonderLab and loved spending time teaching the children there. He was on the Board of Directors for Area 10 Agency on Aging in Bloomington. He also enjoyed listening to Rakugo Japanese Comedy. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bob leaves behind his sister, Betty Emiko Shibata of Tokyo, Japan, three nieces Taeko Togasaki of Washington DC, Sumiko Togasaki and Emily Ayako Sato; and a nephew, Mark Makoto Shibata all of Tokyo, Japan; and many cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Fumiko, and brother Gordon Togasaki.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Cremation Rites have been accorded.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at <http://www.allencares.com>.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ken Spencer - January 18, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ Bob was a wonderful colleague. For several decades, we served together on various IU committees and occasionally we discussed different aspects of our careers. It was a joy to have a conversation with him, for he exuded happiness, super intelligence, kindness, and friendliness. All of our interactions generated progress and left each of us with good feelings. Unusual he was for his willingness to talk, laugh, and have deep conversations. I shall never forget Bob, our stimulating conversations, and our cheerful friendship.
--George Malacinski

George Malacinski - December 10, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ Bob was such an accomplished man, generous with his knowledge and time, and utterly lacking in pretensions. From my two years in EALC at IU, I have memories of running into him and Fumiko when I was leaving Goodbody Hall around dinner time, when we'd all chat for a bit. They also had me to dinner, and we'd see each other at this or that gathering. Years later, the two of them stopped in Ohio early one summer on their way to Fallingwater (Frank L Wright's), and while dinner was getting assembled he went out to the side porch and swung for a while on the swing. I could see through the porch window that his eyes were shut and there was a hint of a smile on his face. He commented afterwards how he hadn't been on a swing for ages and how relaxing it was. Much later, after Bob retired, it was inspiring to hear him talk about his experiences teaching science to kids. He obviously enjoyed it a lot. Bob must have had many a trial as Fumiko's and then his own health failed, but he kept on. Never heard the man complain about the things he had to bear ... Thank you for your friendship and for the memories, Bob. We'll miss you.

Charles & Shelley Fenno Quinn - November 29, 2019 at 12:36 PM



“ Dr. Bob was my late husband Dr Buddy L Bruner's roommate at Meadowood last mid-November to Mid-December before my husband moved to Gentry Park. Dr. Bob was the sweetest, kindest, most perfectly mannered gentleman living in the Health Pavillion at Meadowood. All the nurses were fond of him. He and Dr. Buddy talked and talked, and neither were on firm "doctoral" ground by the time we all came together in last season's winter holidays. He often reminded me Japanese was his native language and apologized when he sometimes resorted to speaking Japanese. Such a lovely man and how lucky Buddy was to have shared with such a fine roommate.

Sarah K Bruner

Sarah K Bruner - November 28, 2019 at 05:17 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Allen Funeral Home and Crematory - November 27, 2019 at 04:40 PM



“ I was a graduate student of Bob's from 1984 to 1990, and to this day, I consider to be one of the kindest and humble individuals I've ever met. During that time of my life, was more of a post father figure to me than my own father. Miss you, Bob!

Greg Katzman - November 27, 2019 at 12:24 PM



“ Among Dr. Togasaki's PhD students was Dr. Joan Helen Wood (also an MD), who died in 1990 at the age of 38 of cancer. She was always grateful to Dr. Togasaki for her training and for his guidance. It is a tribute in part to him that she accomplished so much in a brief life. She would want someone to say this, so I am doing so now.

Fred Peterson - November 26, 2019 at 10:06 AM