



Melinda S. Jones

MAR 27, 1958 - JAN 23, 2024



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DIAMOND HEAD MORTUARY
WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES

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Melinda S. Jones

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Melinda Jones Taki

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With great sadness, we share the news that our beloved Melinda Jones Taki passed away unexpectedly on January 23.

Melinda was born and raised in suburban New Jersey, where she was an accomplished equestrian show Jumper and horse trainer. Her love of animals was etched in her DNA, as her dog Maddie can certify. She had a great love for the 'Jersey Shore', and where she spent her summers as a youth. At the tender age of 12 her passion for cooking was realized when she started catering for her neighbors' parties.

Food became Melinda's love language, as the many friends and family members who were recipients of her delicious and creative gastronomical delights can attest. Her recipes were in her head and heart and will never be duplicated. (literally)

In adulthood Melinda became an astute businesswoman. She was interviewed by Gloria Steinem for a New York Magazine on Melinda's historic breaking of the "Glass Ceiling" in the car industry. Melinda was the first woman to run a car dealership in a male dominated industry. Subsequently, this is where she met the love of her life Tomio Taki. She sold him a car and he stole her heart.

Melinda and Tomio became great world travel partners, experiencing unique cultures, landscapes, and exotic cuisines. She took the opportunity to incorporate the intricacies of her experiences into her life and kitchen.



Obituary

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Melinda's heart and hands were always open to those in need. Her desire to give someone a 'leg up' was her mantra. She served with fierce dedication. Thanksgiving Day for the New York City shelters were graced by her magnificent pies, side dishes and turkeys for countless years.

Upon Melinda and Tomio spending most of the year in Hawaii, Melinda adopted the 'Friends of Windward Wounded Warriors' (that provides support to help veterans get back on their feet) providing large quantities of meals for their family nights, holidays and events. Her generosity never wavered for family, friends, or strangers in need.

She is survived by her husband Tomio Taki and her mother Joan Jones, and stepsons Kazuo Taki and his wife Keiko, their daughter Ayaka, Sachio Taki and wife Honami, Adam Taki, and his wife Julie and their 2 children. She also leaves behind her loyal Doberman Maddie. She is predeceased by her father Tom Jones.

In lieu of flowers Donations in her honor may be given to either the Hawaii Humane Society or Friends of Windward Wounded Warriors to <https://hawaiianhumane.org/>

Or <https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/honolulunavyleague/woundedwarriorfund>

kuakinifoundation@kuakini.org

Kuakini Foundation
347 N. Kuakini Street
Honolulu, HI 96817



Tribute Wall

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EY

Eishun Yamada posted:

Melinda fed me lots of delicious meals. It's been a long time since I returned to Japan, and I'm really sad to have to say goodbye like this. Love Eishun

February 7 at 10:54 AM

LO

Lori lit a candle in honor of Melinda.



February 6 at 9:09 PM

NO

Naoko Okada lit a candle in honor of Melinda.

Please accept my sincere condolences. We just had dinner together in January. I will never forget Melinda, who always greeted me with a wonderful smile. Taki san Genki Dashite Kudasaine!



February 6 at 4:09 PM

EP

Eriko & Percy Abe posted:

We couldn't find the words,,,Thank you so much for all the happy moments we spent with you and Tomio san in Hawaii, New York, Paris and Tokyo, with fun talking, delicious foods, wines, visits,,, always with your warm thoughts and smiles... A lots of wonderful memories in every place at every moment. Thank you again for everything Melinda. Taki san our deepest condolences to you and your family, may her soul rest in peace. Eriko and Percy Abe

February 6 at 11:55 AM

GR

Gov, Mom, Ryoze, Chicago & Ryokun posted:

Dear Mr. Taki,Governor, Mom, Chikage, Ryokun & I were shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Melinda's passing that day and send our sincere & heartfelt condolences. We know it is a very tough time for you, Mr. Taki. Our tears for your loss. She was such a kind and giving person and loved you very much. You have built such fond and splendid memories of the good times you have spent together with her. She is in heaven now but also with you - and us - in our hearts. We love you and Melinda very much and are here for you always!...Gov, Mom, Ryoze, Chikage & Ryokun

February 6 at 9:06 AM



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MA

Marin Alsop posted:

Dearest Tomio - we are all sending our love and wonderful memories of Melinda's smile and laughter. Our hearts are with you! love, Marin

February 6 at 12:19 AM

LC

Lori Crowley lit a candle in honor of Melinda.

Oh Tomio- the Schroeder family is so sorry to hear the news of Melinda's passing. She was such a beautiful and kind person- she lit up a room with her smile and kindness. Sending much love ❤️ Lori Crowley

February 5 at 9:51 PM



CR

Chanel Renee lit a candle in honor of Melinda.

February 5 at 4:16 PM



MH

Mariko Hata posted:

The dinners we had with Mr. Taki and Melinda, and the dinners she made, were truly delicious and fun memories for us. We are always grateful for her kind words and welcoming smile. Her overflowing love and smile will remain in everyone's hearts forever. Our deepest condolences to you and the family. ♥️Hata Family.♥️

February 5 at 12:47 PM

MA

Maribel lit a candle in honor of Melinda.

February 5 at 12:11 PM



TA

Teri Agins posted:

Dear Mr. Taki: I am so very sorry for your loss. May you be comforted by the loving memories of joyful, caring Melinda and your wonderful years together. Rest in peace, sweet Melinda.

February 5 at 10:06 AM



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AK

Akemi & Misako Kurokawa posted:

We were saddened by the news of the sudden passing of Melinda. And we immediately thought of Mr. Taki. We enjoyed our occasional eat out at different restaurants around Honolulu. Our deepest condolences to Mr. taki and his family. Sincerely, Akemi & Misako

February 5 at 8:37 AM

GS

Gisele Sinn lit a candle in honor of Melinda.



February 5 at 7:18 AM

LA

Leonard Armstrong shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We didn't know that his would be the last time we would see your welcoming smile. But I'm am happy I have it to share. You will truly be missed. Mr Taki our deepest condolences to you and the family. Love Jeanne and Leonard.



February 4 at 6:00 AM

ST

Sachio Taki February 14 at 12:58 PM

Great photo thank you.

SP

Sharen P. sent a sympathy card to the Jones family.



February 4 at 2:28 AM



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KT

Kazuo Taki posted:

It was my biggest loss. She was taking care of entire Taki Family for long time. We appreciate what she had done for Taki Family and especially, Tomio. Thank you Meme, and see you later. From Kazuo Taki Family.

February 3 at 7:01 AM

DK

Don Kim February 6 at 10:40 AM

We are deeply sorry to hear about passing of Malinda -sama. She was always smile and very friendly and very nice to us. Please accept our heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. Please take care of yourself. Carolyn and Don Kim

MI

Misako Ito February 5 at 1:02 PM

My sincere condolences to Taki san and all Taki Family. I still remember her warm smile when Melinda and Taki-san welcomed me at your beautiful home in Diamond Head. Misako in Tokyo

CL

Carol M Lorincz lit a candle in honor of Melinda.



February 3 at 5:52 AM



Leonard Armstrong shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 4 at 6:00 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Melinda by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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