



Tetsuo Takahashi

May 29, 1939 - June 23, 2012

Tetsuo "Tets" Takahashi, 73, of Honolulu, a retired owner of landscaping services and U.S. Air Force veteran, died in Tripler Army Medical Center. He was born in South Hilo, Hawaii. He is survived by wife Karen N.; son Nathan N. ; daughter Michelle E.; mother Chiyoko ; brother George (Sung Cha); sisters Jane Takahashi, Gladys (Wayne) Umemoto and Ellen (Thomas) Tanoura; two grandchildren. Visitation 5:00 p.m. Tuesday (7/17) Diamond Head Mortuary; service 6:00 p.m. Inurnment 9:00 a.m. Wednesday (7/18) Diamond Head Memorial Park. Casual attire. No flowers.

Comments



“ To my anchan (big brother), I was a just a young squirt of a sister, after all, when he was a senior in high school, I was a mere 7th grader. We did not converse much, but when it came to guava picking, swimming in the stream way in the mountains above our home, and building mud forts in the newly harvested cane fields near our house, it didn't matter whether we were ages apart. We had fun. He was so good at building toys from scrap lumber, especially cranes that actually grabbed grass when one pulled on the strings. My grandfather and he would make the best kites--using thin paper, bamboo, and yards and yards of string because the created kites would fly so high--it would look like just a pin point in the sky. As adults, I trusted his judgement with plants. He got so good at naming and using his artistic eye to landscape. His siblings all enjoyed his assistance in landscaping our newly bought homes. He spoke proudly of landscaping projects that he had done, too, and of how he needed to convince a home owner to "at least water the plants." Each year, he took the time out during his busy schedule to make kadomatsu for us for New Year, picking the pine and bamboo by himself and delivering them to our homes. When someone got married or celebrated their yakudoshi, he would painstakingly make a fish center piece with all of the good luck nuances--the bamboo, the pine, the turtle--all symbolizing good luck. I marveled at the artistry he used in making the turtle and flowers out of died daikon (turnip), carrots, and other edible items. Nothing was artificial. Anchan cherished his relationship with our obaban and ojinchan (paternal grandparents) who lived with us. He also cherished the culture and traditions of our Japanese heritage. He had dreamed of going to Japan to stay for a full month while I was there teaching. Anchan, I appreciated your sensitivity to others' issues. Even though you may have had your burdens, you knew when to comfort someone. It was almost as though I didn't want to tell you anything because you would carry the burden for me. Anchan, thank you for helping us--me, my sons, & Tommy--we will all miss you. I will cherish the plants you put in my garden, each carefully laid rock, the cement garden you made so that I could raise some vegetables; but, most of all, I will miss my anchan--you taught me so much about life--to respect our heritage and family traditions; and to love our surroundings. Be at peace!

Ellen Hideko Tanoura - July 18, 2012 at 12:35 AM



“ Tetsuo (Anchan) (my brother) was a compassionate, caring individual who loved his family dearly and enjoyed all types of sports. During our telephone conversations (which I enjoyed), he talked about his snorkeling in Japan, the need for fish conservation in Hawaii, as well as great times in the Air Force. All these we shared in great detail because we loved the same things in life. I actually followed his "footsteps" and was proud to have joined the U.S. Air Force too! The love of flowers and his artistic talents led him to become a talented landscaper and a person loved by many. Please be at peace Tetsuo....we love you dearly and we will meet again someday and share good times again!

George & Sung Cha Takahashi - July 17, 2012 at 03:11 AM



“ Uncle Tets was such a great man and will be missed by all that he touched. I remember us going to Hilo to visit Grandma and Grandpa Takahashi. Uncle took my brother and I fishing out on the rocks, picking Opai in the stream with Mom, and then taking us through the cane fields and sucking on some fresh sugar cane. What an amazing trip! I had such an enjoyable time and I'm so glad that Uncle shared his outdoor expertise with us. I was also lucky enough to work with Uncle during a summer home from college. I had a difficult time trying to find a part time job that summer, but he was nice enough to extend a hand to help out a fellow family member. Uncle taught me so much (i.e. mowing the lawn, edging, watering plants correctly, etc). Although he was a strict boss at times, I had a great time sharing stories with Uncle on our lunch breaks and spending time with him. After his accident, although I was on the mainland, I'm glad that I was able to visit him during my trips home. He was interested in my profession, but I wish he could have been a passenger on one of my flights. Uncle, I'm so glad that you were able to meet Charity and Eyan, and we will miss you dearly! PS - Please have fun with Grandpa...I know that you folks will enjoy each other's company eating all the poke you want.

Mark Tsuchiyama - July 15, 2012 at 08:48 AM