



Tomoko Lutz

APR 7, 1950 - NOV 7, 2015



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WARRENSBURG – Tomoko Higa Lutz, of Warrensburg, passed away Saturday, November 7, 2015, at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Tomoko was born April 7, 1950, in Okinawa, Japan, the daughter of Nobu and Teisyou Higa. After high school, she attended school for accounting and flower arrangement. She was an accountant for the Takakura Company in Naha, Okinawa. One day in 1973 she went to a bar to collect the account and her life changed forever when the owner introduced her to a young Marine Lieutenant. They dated for the next seven months, and then December 25, 1975, she came to the USA. She married that former lieutenant, Ralph J. (Jerry) Lutz, Jr., on January 17, 1976. Tomoko worked as a playground and lunchroom supervisor for many years at the Warrensburg-Latham Elementary School. She also attended and often worked at Boy Scout summer camps with her husband for 40 summers. Known as the “Origami Lady” she taught many thousands the joys of making boxes, birds, and other items from a simple piece of paper. “Paper makes people happy!” she would say. Her egg rolls and fried rice were legendary, and she was always laughing. Tomoko never became a US citizen, and loved her Okinawan origins, but she also dearly loved the USA, her adopted homeland for nearly 40 years.

Memorials may be made to the Owasippe Staff Association, P O Box 7079, Westchester, IL 60154, or to your local Boy Scout unit or council.

Tomoko leaves behind her husband Ralph Jerry Lutz of Warrensburg: daughter Susan (Isaac) Thotz of Los Angeles, CA; stepson John (Melissa) Lutz of Rolling Meadows, IL; grandchildren Nitsa, Cyric, and David; three brothers and three sisters living in Okinawa and Japan; many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles; mother-in-law Fran Lutz.

The family will host an informal open house celebration of Tomoko’s life Thursday, November 12, 2015, from 3:00 – 7:00 pm, in the Warrensburg Community Building,



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265 S. Main, Warrensburg, IL. Children are welcome.

Burial will be in her husband's plot at the Camp Butler National Cemetery at a later date. No funeral or visitation. Another celebration of her life will be held next summer at Owasippe Scout Reservation, Twin Lake, MI, a beautiful spot where she spent 33 summers.

The family of Tomoko Higa Lutz is being served by Moran & Goebel Funeral Home and Cremation Services honored provider of Veterans Funeral Care, 2801 N. Monroe Street, Decatur, IL. View the online obituary and send condolences to the family at www.moranandgoebel.com.



Tribute Wall

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JM

Joyce & Steve Mitchell posted:

To this day, Tomokos' eggrolls are the standard by which we judge all others. She always wanted to share her talents and loved to provide comfort with that talent. We still put her Origami ornaments on our tree at Christmas each year. Our prayers to Jerry and the family. Joyce & Steve Mitchell

November 10 at 5:26 PM

AJ

Angela Hilberling-Johnson posted:

I loved seeing her at school every day!!! I love and miss her very much!!! I feel privileged to have known her my whole life!!! She was a wonderful woman.

November 10 at 1:50 PM

JM

Joyce Mitchell posted:

We always enjoyed the time spent with Jerry, Tomoko, and Susan. Tomoko was a wonderful cook who always had a surprise for you. It was always fun to guess what she had made and what was in it! I always enjoyed when we would ask what something was...she would reply to taste it first and then she would tell us. We ate so many strange and wonderful things that way. I know I would have never tried squid wrapped in seaweed if she hadn't made me! Her eggrolls are still the standard that we measure any that we eat by. We will miss you Tomoko! Joyce and Steve Mitchell

November 10 at 11:32 AM

JO

Joe posted:

Thank you for teaching Origami to my son Max at Owasippe, you will be missed Joe – Pathway to Adventure Council

November 10 at 10:14 AM

MK

Michael G Krause posted:

Jerry, we are so sorry for the loss of your wonderful and lovely wife Tomoko. You will be in our prayers. Mike and Linda Krause

November 10 at 6:24 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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