

# In MEMORIAM



**Anbe, Amy Kameko, 74**, Honolulu, HI, June 5.

**Asato, Dorothy Yukino, 97**, Torrance, CA, June 30.

**Beppu, Jo Ann Kumiko, 72**, Wahiawa, HI, June 29.

**Fukushima, Allen Isao, 68**, Honolulu, HI, July 28.



**Hamada, Harold Seichi, 88**, Honolulu, HI, May 31.

**Hamada, Helen Teruko, 81**, Sacramento, CA, May 4.

**Hamasaki, Lillian Yuriko, 99**, Maple Valley, WA, June 24.



**Hasuike, Daniel, 74**, Tigard, OR, June 29.

**Hollister-Takashima, Laura, 75**, Lake Oswego, OR, June 17.

**Imanishi, Naomi Shirley, 65**, Los Angeles, CA, July 26.

**Inouye, Kathryn, 76**, Steilacoom, WA, July 16.

**Iri, Ayako 'Arleene,' 97**, Long Beach, CA, June 24.

**Ishii, Kuniko, 104**, Santa Ana, CA, June 5.

**Kadokawa, Dorothy Sumiko, 99**, Sacramento, CA, May 4.

**Kagawa, Betsy, 91**, Honolulu, HI, July 29.

**Kaneda, Patsy Hisako, 90**, Gig Harbor, WA, Aug. 2.



**Kaohi, Sharon Shigeko Kiyama, 87**, Kaneohe, HI, Aug. 5.



**Kawahara, Herbert Gunzo, 95**, Corte Madera, CA, Aug. 2.



**Kim-Tahara, Julia, 53**, Flower Mound, TX, June 15.

**Matsuoka, Akira, 101**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, July 8.

**Mishima, James Sunao, 92**, Palm Springs, CA, June 9.



**Morishige, Jane Takako, 82**, Honolulu, HI, July 1.

**Nakai, Nadine, 94**, Irvine, CA, Aug. 5.

**Nakamura, Hiroko, 98**, Villa Park, CA, June 23.

**Nakamura, Nancy Sachiko, 98**, Irvine, CA, Aug. 1.

**Okamoto, Richard Kunio, 105**, Honolulu, HI, April 19.



**Ota, Yoshiko Jean, 94**, Sacramento, CA, May 29.

**Sasamoto, George Nobuo, 99**, Chicago, IL, Aug. 11.

**Shiba, Debra, 71**, Chico, CA, Dec. 24, 2023.

**Takasumi, Mitsue, 100**, Portland, OR, March 13.

**Tanaka, Florence, 84**, Cypress, CA, April 11.

**Uota, Nobuko, 86**, Morgan Hill, CA, June 27.

**Yamamoto, Frances Yonemoto, 97**, Caldwell, ID, Jan. 16.

**Yamasaki, Brent, 53**, Pocatello, ID, March 8.

## News Briefs

### JA Among 5 Charged in Matthew Perry's Fatal Ketamine-Related OD

More than nine months after "Friends" star Matthew Perry's Oct. 24, 2023 death, authorities announced charges against five persons, including two physicians, in connection with the actor's fatal ketamine overdose. Among those charged was 59-year-old Kenneth Iwamasa — described as Perry's "live-in personal assistant" — who on Aug. 7 pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine causing death. Despite having no medical training, he admitted to injecting Perry on multiple occasions with the anesthetic, including on the day Perry died. Arrested on Aug. 15 were Jasveen Sangha, 41, of North Hollywood, Calif., and Dr. Salvador Plasencia, 42, of Santa Monica. The two were charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine. Along with Iwamasa, charged separately were Eric Fleming, 54, of Hawthorne, Calif., who pleaded guilty on Aug. 8 to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine and one count of distribution of ketamine resulting in death, and Dr. Mark Chavez, 54, of San Diego, a physician who has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine.

### Defense Attorneys: Disbarred Girardi Was Victim of Kamon's Fraudulence

Attorneys for 85-year-old Thomas Vincent Girardi — charged with four counts of wire fraud and on trial in Los Angeles for allegedly stealing \$15 million from clients when he was a partner at the now-defunct law firm Girardi Keese — on Aug. 6 sought to shift the blame to the law firm's former CFO, Christopher Kazuo Kamon. Citing Girardi's diminished mental capacity due to progressive dementia, public defender Samuel Cross depicted the disbarred attorney as the victim of Kamon, who allegedly used several transactions to siphon off more than \$50 million from the law firm. Kamon has also been charged with wire fraud. A trial date for Kamon is scheduled for next year.

### Judge Sentences Yamanaka Mello to 15 Years for Stealing \$100+ Mil

Western District of Texas Judge Xavier Rodriguez has sentenced Texan Janet Yamanaka Mello, 57, to 15 years in prison for stealing more than \$100 million over six years from a grant program designed to provide services to military dependents and their families. Mello, a former civilian Army employee dubbed the "Gucci Goddess," pleaded guilty in March to five counts of mail fraud and five counts of filing a false tax return. Before she was caught — and sentenced in July — Mello used the stolen funds to buy real estate in Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Texas and Washington, as well as jewelry and several vehicles.

### Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida Withdraws From September Vote

Japan will soon have a new prime minister. On Aug. 14, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, whose three-year term ends in September, announced that he will not run in the Liberal Democratic Party leadership vote set for Sept. 27, opening the door for Japan to get a new prime minister. Because the LDP controls both houses of Japan's parliament, whoever wins the party vote will become the nation's new PM. A Jiji Press poll in July had support for Kishida's cabinet at 15.5 percent.

### 'Free Chol Soo Lee,' 'Omoiyari' Gets News, Docu Emmy Nominations

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced its 45th Annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards nominations, and among the nominees are "Free Chol Soo Lee" (see *Pacific Citizen*, [March 18, 2022](#) and [May 5, 2023](#)) in the categories Outstanding Historical Documentary and Outstanding Promotional Announcement: Documentary for the documentary's broadcast as part of PBS' "Independent Lens"; and "A Song Film By Kishi Bashi: Omoiyari" (see *Pacific Citizen*, [Oct. 6, 2023](#)) in the category Outstanding Arts and Culture Documentary on Paramount+. The winners will be announced over two nights, Sept. 25 and 26 in New York, with one night dedicated to news, the other documentaries.

### Oscar-Winner Tashima Tapped as AMPAS' Short Film Branch Governor

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced that Chris Tashima, who won an Academy Award for the 1997 live-action short film "Visas and Virtue," has been elected governor of the Short Films Branch.

### Landmark Hollywood Japanese Restaurant Site Might Sell for Millions

Yamashiro restaurant and its surrounding 7.3 acre property has been put on the market — and could sell for more than \$100 million.

— P.C. Staff

### PLACE A TRIBUTE

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