



Setsu "Susie" Romine

February 8, 1930 - August 18, 2021

Setsu Romine, "Susie", was born February 8, 1930 in Kobe, Japan to Eiji and Shigeyo Masumori. She passed away at the age of 91 on August 18, 2021 in Wenatchee, Washington after suffering many years with dementia and kidney disease.

She was one tough lady. Many people underestimated her because of her small stature and quiet and polite nature. In reality, she had a lot of spunk and was very resilient. As a young child her father died in an industrial accident. She was later adopted when her mother married Kenzo Isa. She was a teenager in war-torn Japan. She married and left her family and friends and immigrated to the U.S. where she became a proud American. She relocated her household on a regular basis. She took three kids to Japan when her husband was stationed in Korea and then moved the family to different SAC bases around the U.S. She learned a new trade as an adult and worked as a hairstylist. She had a lot of grit.

While growing up in Nagoya, Japan, she attended middle school and Kinjo Girls' School and College where she studied accounting, typing and English. It was a Christian school so she learned many hymns and sang them beautifully in her soprano voice.

During the American Occupation of Japan, she worked in a bank as a

bookkeeper. The bank was across the street from the Yamada Building which was the American Headquarters in Nagoya. It was during this time she met an airman stationed there. Marriage between an American and a Japanese did not happen easily at that time. However, with the support of the military chaplain and friends, Elvie Romine and Setsu Isa were married on March 18, 1953.

She and Elvie were married almost 56 years before his passing in 2009. Her later years were happy ones spent with family.

Our gratitude goes to Wanda's Country Living and Ella's Adult Family Home for keeping her comfortable in her final years. Our family also thanks Confluence Hospice for their support of her family and making her passing a peaceful one. We are forever grateful for all of your kindness and compassionate care.

She is survived by three children, Kathy (Meir) Yona of East Wenatchee, Pat (Rod) Whiting of Mossyrock, Washington and Mike (Brenda) Romine of Wenatchee as well as seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Elvie and infant son William Dale.

Her ashes will be interred at a later date with immediate family attending. There will be no services. Please consider a donation in her memory to the American Cancer Society.

Her children are blessed with wonderful and lively memories of their mother who shared her rich culture and quirky sense of humor. We continue to strive to live our lives as she lived hers, with resilience, dignity and grace.

Arrangements made by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

“ I never realized what a strong lady Mom was until I was an adult. She left her family and friends in Japan to make a new life with Dad in the United States. It must have been so scary for her. My sister was born in Japan and the three of them traveled to the US. My sister showed her appreciation of this by throwing up all over Dad! While Dad worked, Mom had to wash their clothes in the bathtub as they couldn't afford a washer and dryer. She didn't know a soul, didn't drive, had to teach herself how to cook American dishes. She didn't have anyone to help her when Dad was working. I was born and a year later, they had a son who was born prematurely and died. After their fourth child was born, Mom was diagnosed with cancer and had to have surgery. Luckily, my dad's aunt came to help out for awhile. I can't imagine having to lose a child and go through cancer without the help of my mother.

She was an excellent cook. We were lucky to have been raised eating both Japanese and American meals. She was always happy to cook Japanese food for anyone, especially for those who had never had authentic Japanese cuisine. She always made sure that there was enough for them to take some home. We had rice very night whether we were eating Japanese food or American. I have carried on that tradition although not to the extent Mom had. My husband once said he's never eaten so much rice!

Mom was an excellent seamstress. She sewed a lot of clothes for my sister and me. She always made sure my sister and I looked nice.

Mom eventually learned to drive. Before that, we'd take a bus whenever Mom needed to go to town. She would always dress us up for town or for a doctors visit. One time I fell and cut my arms up on broken glass. I was bleeding quite a bit but Mom put a dress on me before she let my dad take me to the doctors.

When Dad retired, we moved to Wenatchee. Mom went to beauty school and worked at Dale's in Wenatchee. She eventually went to work with her best friend, Sakie Hollingworth. She cut all of our hair. She'd ask how we wanted our hair cut and then would cut it the way she thought it should be cut. You never made her mad while she was cutting! She also enjoyed cutting her grandkids' hair.

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I'll miss Mom's stories of her life growing up in Japan and Korea, her sense of humor, her smile. Towards the end of her life, she didn't always know who I was and didn't talk much, but when she did talk, she'd always smile at me, thank me for coming and to come back soon.

Pat Whiting - August 30, 2021 at 10:38 AM

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“*Mom loved ice skating. She enjoyed watching the Olympic ice skaters. When her dementia got to the point where her short term memory was pretty much gone, we would put Olympic skating on the tv and play it for her over and over. She enjoyed each sitting as much the last time as she did the first time. While stationed in Glasgow, Montana the family skated on the frozen ponds. A favorite memory was when she spotted a snow shoe rabbit and told us to look at the snow boot bunny and the name remains to this day.*”

Kathy Yona - August 27, 2021 at 05:19 PM

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“*Mom received a Better Homes and Garden Cookbook as a wedding gift and with that she learned how to cook American style. She excelled at cooking both Japanese and American cuisine. We all looked forward to sukiyaki on New Year's Day, rice balls while hunting matsutake mushrooms up the Icicle River and sushi. Her delicious cooking was always enjoyed by family and friends and nobody ever went home without a wrapped portion of the meal.*”

Kathy Yona - August 27, 2021 at 05:15 PM