



Kazuko Hein

JUL 11, 1932 - MAR 15, 2026



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 6



Kazuko Hein

JUL 11, 1932 - MAR 15, 2026

Kazuko “Kay” Washio Howard Hein, born July 11, 1932, in Aomori, Japan, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2026, at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, John and Teresa Howard, in Spotsylvania, Virginia. She was 93 years old.

Kay lived a long and remarkable life defined by resilience, laughter, and a deep love for family and friends. Raised in northern Japan, she carried with her the values of perseverance, kindness, and loyalty that would shape the rest of her life. In June 1964, she embarked on a courageous new chapter when she moved to the United States. Building a life across cultures, she eventually became a proud naturalized U.S. citizen in March 1995.

Kay spent much of her life in Southern California, where she built lasting friendships and a vibrant community around her. In 2023, she moved to Virginia to live with her son and daughter-in-law, where she spent her final years surrounded by family and love.

She is survived by her daughter, Toshiko Oda of Tokyo, Japan, and her son, John Howard (Teresa) of Spotsylvania, Virginia. She leaves behind a loving legacy through her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In the United States, her grandchildren are Jeret (Courtney) Howard, Amanda (Dwayne) Jackson, and Jacob (Emma) Howard. In Japan, she is survived by her grandchildren Shinya (Satoko) and Naoki (Ai), along with many cherished great-grandchildren who brought her great joy.

Kay was preceded in death by her husbands, Tom Hein and Don Howard; her parents, Gotaro Washio and Misae Narita Washio; and her sisters, Keiko Yagahashi and Mako Washio.

Those who knew Kay will remember her as someone who brought light and warmth wherever she went. She had a joyful spirit, an infectious laugh, and a natural gift for friendship. She loved being active and social, filling her days with activities that kept her connected to the people around her. She was a proud member of a Japanese Nisei karaoke club, participated in several



Obituary

Kazuko Hein

JUL 11, 1932 - MAR 15, 2026

bowling leagues, practiced yoga regularly, and enjoyed many lively trips to casinos with friends. Wherever she was, there was conversation, laughter, and companionship.

Like many people around the world, the period of social isolation beginning in 2020 took a quiet toll on her health and spirit. Yet even during those more difficult years, she remained deeply loved and surrounded by friends and family who cherished every moment with her.

Kay will be remembered not only for the long life she lived, but for the joy she shared so freely with others. Her warmth, kindness, and vibrant personality touched many lives across two countries and several generations. The love she gave to her family and friends will continue to live on in the memories they carry and the stories they share.

A private gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date to celebrate her life.

Kay's life was a bridge between cultures, generations, and friendships. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



Tribute Wall

Kazuko Hein

JUL 11, 1932 - MAR 15, 2026



Shinya Uchida lit a candle in honor of Kazuko.

Grandma, I hope you're well in heaven. Rest in peace and be happy

March 24 at 10:11 PM



Shinya Uchida shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

ばあちゃんへI was really surprised WoW when I first heard that my grandmother was living in USA. She was such a cheerful and energetic grandmother. Please wait for us in heaven with Tom. I love you all very much. Thank you so much. My grandmother, may she rest in peace. SHINYA from Japan.

March 24 at 9:05 PM





Shinya Uchida shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 24 at 9:05 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit