



## Gary Steven Matsuda

July 5, 1950 - September 18, 2015

Gary Steven Matsuda, 65, passed away on September 18, 2015, in Cedar Hills, UT. He was born July 5, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois, to Yuki Yoshi Matsuda and Mary Hamamoto. He grew up in Culver City, CA, and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in May 1969. After serving a full-time mission in the Japan West Mission, he married his high-school sweetheart, Jodee Welchman, on July 27, 1974, in the Los Angeles California Temple.

After graduating from BYU, he served his country for 30 years in national security and intelligence, mostly overseas. He raised his family in Kanagawa-ken, Japan, and served in the church as a branch president, district president, regional representative, area authority seventy in the Third Quorum of Seventy, and second counselor in the Asia North Area Presidency.

Gary was a kind and loving husband and father, who always put the needs of others, the Lord, and the church above all else. While known publicly for his faith, leadership, and teaching, at home he was known by his family for his sense of humor, gentleness, dancing, love of music, athletic skill, light-heartedness, gift for nicknames, love of grammar and vocabulary, and absolute fondness for his wife and children.

He is survived by his wife, Jodee; his children, Jarom (and Shelby, Erie, CO),

Elisa (and Adam Limon, Cedar Hills, UT), Ammon (and Kara, Erie, CO), and Laurel (and Keith Osai, North Salt Lake, UT); his sisters, Patti Edwards and Sherry Mukogawa (southern CA); and 11 grandchildren, Darius, Nikelle, Eli, Ainsley, Marcus, Kali, Charlise, Jamison, Kale, Channing, and Alexa.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Yuki Yoshi Matsuda and Mary Masuda, and his granddaughter, Alona Limon.

Services will be held at 11:00am on Monday, September 21, 2015, at the Manila 10th Ward located at 3785 W Box Elder Dr, Cedar Hills, UT, with a viewing from 9:30am - 10:30am.

Please share memories and condolences at [www.serenityfhs.com](http://www.serenityfhs.com).

# Previous Events

## Viewing

SEP 21. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Manila 10th Ward  
3396 North 900 West  
Pleasant Grove, UT 84062

## Funeral Service

SEP 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Manila 10th Ward  
3396 North 900 West  
Pleasant Grove, UT 84062

## Graveside Service

SEP 22. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Pleasant Grove City Cemetery  
500 N Main Street  
Pleasant Grove, UT

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary Steven Matsuda

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ Brother Matsuda, we love and will miss you. I look forward to the day we can all be together again. The Warner family wouldn't be the same without the example, love and friendship the Matsuda's have been starting with Brother M. I was blessed to witness on many occasions the strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ shared by this wonderful man. I know brother Matsuda is still doing our Heavenly Father's work. Thank you for all the great memories.

Jared Warner - September 23, 2015 at 11:32 PM



“ This message is for Sister Matsuda. We worked together many years ago as teachers of Elementary Nutrition in Salt Lake City before she and Gary were even married. She was an extraordinary young woman and I have great memories of her telling us about Gary and their lives and dreams. To you, Jodee, please take comfort and find peace in this loss. The gospel of Jesus Christ will bring healing and rest to you. Love to you, Beth N. Brown, PO Box 507 Moffat, CO 81143

Beth N. Brown - September 22, 2015 at 01:32 AM



“ We were friends in the Silver Springs Maryland Ward . Fond memories of those days.

Dick Seely - September 21, 2015 at 04:24 PM

MD

“ *Elder Matsuda was a great man loved by all that knew him. He became a special friend to Mary and I as we served under him as mission president and wife in Japan 2000-2003. It was always a special treat to be on a speaking assignment with him. He had such a great way of connecting with everyone. We always felt his love and kindness. He will be missed. Our love and sympathy to Sister Matsuda.*

*Love,*

*Mark & Mary Durham*

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**Mark P Durham** - September 21, 2015 at 03:35 PM

NS

“ Although he was several years younger than I, Gary Matsuda was a stellar example to me of how to serve, love and prepare to return to our Heavenly Father. I served in the Japan Mission from 1954 to 1958 and later as president of the Hiroshima Mission. My wife and I became close to Gary while he was an area authority and counselor in the Asia North Area Presidency, and we labored as directors of public affairs. We worked closely together during the dedication of the Fukuoka Temple. I was always in awe at his fluency in Japanese, his knowledge of the scriptures and the powerful testimony he bore of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. We shared assignments at many conferences. I had great love for him and will look forward to renewing our acquaintance in the worlds beyond. May God bless you for your support of such a wonderful man.

*We cannot attend the funeral because of a commitment to be out of the state.*

*Sincere best wishes,*

*Norman D. Shumway  
Bountiful, Utah*

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**Norman D. Shumway** - September 20, 2015 at 06:34 PM

LH

“ We were sad to hear of Gary's passing. He was a great home teacher and friend. We look forward to seeing him again someday. We love the family and our hearts and prayers are with you.  
*Lucinda and Richard Halter*

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**Lucinda Halter** - September 20, 2015 at 03:38 PM

DT

“ Gary, My Missionary companion in the Japan Fukuoka Mission, was such a delight to know and share missionary duties with. He absolutely lifted everyone up with his cheerfulness, intelligence, and testimony. At first, there was a competitive thing between us I felt, as we learned the language in Laie, HA, but I quickly learned I could never keep pace with him. We found a "golden" family together in Saga, mostly Gary's efforts, that were baptized into the LDS Church and remained faithful. First family to become members in Saga. Love Gary, always will be grateful for knowing him. So sad at his passing, for myself, but happy for him, he will make Heaven a better place, I guarantee it. Love and best wishes, Darrel R. Thompson, Roy, Utah.

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**Darrel R. Thompson** - September 20, 2015 at 01:19 PM



“ We are so sorry to learn of Gary's passing. We have fond memories of our time in Yokosuka Branch with Gary, Jodee, and family.  
Dan and Louise Paupard, West Jordan, Utah



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**Louise Stewart Paupard** - September 20, 2015 at 11:25 AM