



Tomi N. Godfrey

March 15, 1934 - September 24, 2023

Tomi Godfrey, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away at age 89 on September 24, 2023, at Delmar Assisted Living.

She was born March 15, 1934, on the island of Okinawa, a daughter of the late Cho-ei Nakamine and Kamado Usagu Taira Nakamine.

As a young lady, Tomi worked as a dental assistant at Kadena Air Force Base, a career she enjoyed for 8 years. During her time there she met USAF Master Sergeant Donald F. Godfrey, whom she married in 1962. After relocating to the US, she cherished her role as mother and homemaker. While the Air Force stationed her family in various midwestern states, Tomi owned and operated an Asian food and gift retail business.

Upon her husband's retirement from the Air Force, her family relocated to a farm in Delmar, DE. She enjoyed a 30-year career at Green Hill Yacht and Country Club. Tomi was a wonderful cook, a world traveler, and an avid gardener. She spent countless hours caring for their property which was landscaped with English boxwood hedges, koi ponds, and stunning displays of flowers. She also enjoyed maintaining a large garden where she grew vegetables, including exotic varieties which she shared with everyone.

Her survivors include her husband, Donald F. Godfrey; daughters, Catherine Godfrey and husband, Martin Taillefer of Seattle Washington, Dana Godfrey Powers and her husband, Ty of Durham, North Carolina and Sue Godfrey Pena and her husband, Pete of Las Vegas, Nevada; grandchildren, Matthew Mitchell, Ella Taillefer, Alex Taillefer, Tyler Powers and Rin Powers and

nephews, Choho Nakamine of Hernando, Florida, and Sam Nakamine, of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

No formal services will be held.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, MD 21802 or by visiting www.coastalhospice.org/make-a-donation/.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Tribute Wall

JK

“ *When I was a teenager I loved the Japanese culture and language. Tomi graciously took me for a day to speak Japanese, tell me stories, and show me her beautiful garden. I'll never forget that day; It made such a huge impact on my life. Thanks for being such a wonderful role model. I'm sorry we didn't get to spend more time together. I'll always remember her smile!*

Jenna Holloway Khan - October 02, 2023 at 08:43 PM

KR

“ I worked with Tomi from 1994 until 2003; my brother Steven worked there from 1998-2002. We first knew Tomi as small children while my family were members at Green Hill. We REALLY got to know Tomi when we worked with her --- and that was a completely different side. Many parts of that would not be appropriate for a tribute. To this day, I can still hear her Japanese accent telling a story and laugh.

She taught my brother and I many things; first and foremost: work ethic. Even as she aged, she could do laps around co-workers who were younger than her grandchildren. She picked favorites. She knew who would show up with her at 6 am to help set up. She wanted water glasses filled a certain way for a wedding. Tomi never took a break. Never.

When I got older and was a manager, she would “help” me make the schedule because she knew who she wanted to work with. I always let her.

She would invite me to her house to see her gardens, meet her “redneck farmer Don”, and go to lunch. Her gardens were her true passion.

To her family, I am very sorry for your loss. I will always remember her.

Well Tomi, see you round unless you turn to square.

Kurt Riehl - October 02, 2023 at 01:14 PM

DG

“ Great, fun lady and I am sad to hear this. I worked directly with her for several years at Green Hill. My 3 brothers also worked there and we all liked Tomi. My thoughts are with her family.

Don Grove - September 30, 2023 at 06:14 PM

JH

“ *John and Robin Holloway*
Toni was such a gracious lady. We got to know her at Green Hill. She was always a ray of sunshine and she would always bring beautiful flowers from her garden to the club . She was loved by all the members . She is missed.

John & Robin Holloway - September 29, 2023 at 05:24 PM

SK

“ *Sorry for your loss. Ms Tomi will live with us everyday. She was always ready to help us to do stuff at the assisted living in Delmar. She would speak her mind and we loved that.*



Sandy Key - September 28, 2023 at 08:19 PM

PB

“ *Aunt Tomi was one of those amazing people who taught us a lot when we were growing up. Will always remember those awesome summers spent with the girls. Aunt Tomi never let us miss a meal. Keeping Uncle Donald and the girls in our thoughts & prayers. Rest Easy Aunt. Tomi.*



Patti & Bruce - September 27, 2023 at 12:25 PM

KB

I had the pleasure to work with Tomi at Greenhill Yacht and Country Club. She was the kind of person you never forget. Her love for people and her gorgeous flowers. She was the fastest person I new to flip a room so quickly. Tomi you definitely earned those Angel's wings. FLY HIGH AND STAY CLOSE TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

*Kathy Van Blarcum
Reading, Pennsylvania*

Kathy Van Blarcum - September 29, 2023 at 12:54 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Short Funeral Home - September 27, 2023 at 11:21 AM