



Akemi Yamakawa Hio

December 3, 1934 - November 13, 2018

Norfolk, VA- Akemi Yamakawa Hio, 83, of Norfolk, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 13, 2018.

Born in Naha, Okinawa, Japan, on December 3, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Yasukuni and Hiroko Yamakawa.

She grew up in Naha, Okinawa and graduated from the University of the Ryukyus in 1959 with a degree in English. She then attended Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in 1961.

Akemi returned to her homeland and worked for the Episcopal Diocese of Okinawa. She married her late husband, Reverend William A. Hio in 1964. She became a devoted wife and mother of four children while living in Walton, NY and then in Schenectady, NY.

Her steadfast faith in God and Jesus Christ was accentuated by her humble devotion to her work in the church and the community. She eventually went back to school and earned an Associate degree from Maria College in Albany, NY in 1989. She worked as a physical therapy assistant helping elderly patients for 10 years.

Akemi was also a member of the Okinawa American Association of New York where she enjoyed opportunities to perform traditional Japanese dances.

In 2009, Akemi moved to an assisted living facility in Norfolk, VA to be closer to her daughter. Akemi loved taking walks and singing songs in English and Japanese.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Sentara Village Virginia Beach, VA for their compassionate care of Akemi in the final year of her life. Akemi's joyful spirit and genuine kindness will be remembered by all who knew her.

Akemi is survived by sons, Thomas Hio (Yoshiko) and Arthur Hio; daughters, Alice Davey (Kelvin Ilesley) and Teresa Hio. She is also survived by 2 brothers, Ichiro Yamakawa (Yoko) and Ken Yamakawa (Nobuyo) and 5 sisters, Hiromi Yamakawa, Yoshiko Yamakawa, Setsuko Yamakawa, Kuniko Yamakawa, and Meiko Pitt (John). As the oldest of eight children, Akemi is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held privately and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to your local Alzheimer's Association.