



“Dr Miura is not just known in Watsonville for her contributions, but she is known nationally!” - Mas Hashimoto

Dr Masako Miura was honored by a Mayor’s proclamation on her 105th Birthday for her many lifetime accomplishments, which was received on her behalf by her son Hans Goto. Here is what her proclamation stated:

Whereas, Dr Masako Miura was born in Los Angeles, CA on June 29, 1914 to parents Takejiro and Matsu, who ran a clothing store in downtown Los Angeles, in what is currently known as Little Tokyo; and upon graduating high school, Dr Miura and her oldest sister, Yae attended school in Japan for one year; and after that year, Dr Miura started college at the University of Southern California, where she graduated with a medical degree and was one of the first women to do so; and Dr Miura was finishing her residency at Los Angeles County General Hospital when the Pearl Harbor bombing occurred, after which she and her husband James were incarcerated in the Manzanar Internment Camp; and during her time at the camp she and her husband, along with eight other physicians, were responsible for the medical care of its 10,000 residents, and after the war, Dr Miura returned to Los Angeles to continue her medical practice and soon after move to Northern California, where she worked for the Public Health Department in Oakland; and she then decided to work for the US government as a civil servant and was assignee to Fort Ord, where she worked for over 25 years until her retirement in the mid-seventies; and Dr Miura has always been active, traveling to medial conferences in various countries and participating in 4H programs as well as being involved in her local church, and has settled at the Valley Heights Senior Living Community in Watsonville, which has been her home since 2009; Now, therefore, Francisco Estrada, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the state of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby extend sincere congratulations to Masako Miura on her 105th birthday and recognize her many accomplishment throughout her lifetime.

Mas Hashimoto stood up and shared how she lived out the Japanese American Creed which speaks of the ideals of this great nation especially the ideal that judges citizenship and patriotism on the basis of action and achievement, and not on the basis of physical characteristics. It speaks of gratitude for the gifts of this nation, and pledges to do honor to this nation at all times and in all places.

Mas shared how at one point at Manzanar, Dr Miura and her husband risked their lives to hide and save Fred Tayama by hiding him sandwiched between two mattresses from a mob who did not like his work with the national JACL to endorse a policy of loyalty and cooperation with the US government. Now being threatened with bodily harm, Dr Miura and her husband were transferred to another camp in Topaz, Utah.

A large group from Westview Church and the JACL came to the City Council meeting to honor Dr Miura.

It is a joy and an honor to be on this life journey of faith with the amazing, honorable members of Westview, and an honor to know Dr Miura and to be inspired by her and her life.

God bless you,
Pastor Dan



Photos above from left to right: Hans Goto (Dr. Miura’s son) with Police Chief Honda; Hans receiving Dr. Miura’s proclamation from Mayor Estrada; Members of Westview and the JACL that came out to honor Dr. Miura