



Immediate Past International President

Kaoru "Kay" Murakami Dies



Kaoru "Kay" Murakami, the first Oriental to serve as International President of our Association, passed away on November 7, 1982, at the age of 64.

Immediate Past International President Murakami became a Lion in 1954, and at the time of his death was a life member of the Lions Club of Kyoto, Japan.

He served as an International Director in 1975-77 and was chairman of the Third Asian Lions Forum in 1964 and vice-chairman of the host committee for the 1969 International Convention in Tokyo.

His involvement in Lionism, in addition to leading him to achieve the highest elected office of the Association, earned him nine International President's Awards, three Extension Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award. Lion Murakami was also a Key Member who recorded 29 years of perfect attendance.

Immediate Past International President Murakami was a community leader also, who found time to serve as a director of the School of Foreign Language at the University of Kyoto and director of Kitano Shinto Shrine. His involvement in tea culture was renowned in Japan. Lion Murakami was vice-chairman of the board and vice-president of the largest Tea Culture Association, "Urasen-ke," in Japan.

Kaoru "Kay" Murakami was truly a citizen of the world. In his travels on behalf of Lionism, Immediate Past International President Murakami received the key to many cities all over the world, and was made an honorary citizen in more than 30 cities he visited.

One of Lion Murakami's most-often voiced desires was to build "a bridge of understanding between the East and West." The establishment of this bridge is a testimony to his efforts as International President.

An official funeral service was held for him on November 25 at the Tenryuji Buddhist Temple in Kyoto. International President Everett J. "Ebb" Grindstaff represented the Association at this service.

Lion Murakami is survived by his wife, Shoko, of Kyoto; three sons and six grandchildren, Koichiro and Meiko Murakami, and their children, Masami and Takako; Masanori and Keiko Murakami and their children, Mikiko and Makiko; and Shin and Fumiko Murakami, and their children, Yoshiaki and Toru.