

Reiko H. Ohno

1931 - 2013

Reiko H. Ohno Memorial Scholarship
Twin Cities JACL

Reiko Honda was born in Auburn, WA; the youngest of 5 children. She was 11 years old when she and her family were relocated from their home to internment camps with 120,000 other Japanese Americans. After her parents both died in camp, she was raised by her older, married, sister. Being part of what Reiko referred to as her sister's 'ready made family' contributed to her desire to be independent as a young adult. After moving to Minneapolis and graduating from Vocational High School, she worked in Minneapolis and, for a time, in Washington D.C. She lived with her brother on Stevens Avenue in Minneapolis until she married Tom Ohno. Tom and Reiko moved to a house on 5th Avenue until they later settled in Bloomington. Reiko stayed home to raise her daughter, Pam, and son, Rob, before returning to work for the Bloomington School District.



Reiko could always be counted on to take care of details and make everyone around her look good. Her husband, Tom, helped lead the JACL Scholarship Program for many years. Reiko worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the JACL Scholarship Program throughout its first decades.

Reiko retired in the early 90s and she and Tom spent many years traveling and enjoying retired life. After Tom passed away, Reiko enjoyed time with her ex-work colleagues at coffee and lunch and going out with her sisters, and sisters-in-law to celebrate birthdays. Reiko was well known for the manju that she brought to the annual JACL community picnics and the Monster Cookies that she made for her son. She was a constant supporter of her four grandsons; she enjoyed taking part in their activities, even if it meant streaming baseball games from Florida.