

Tom Oye Martha Oye
1918–2003 1919–1994

Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship
Twin Cities JACL

Tom Oye was born in Hillsdale, Oregon in 1918 to Inokichi and Tao Oye. Tom died in 2003 at age 85. Martha was born in 1919 in Portland, Oregon. Her father's name was Mitsuye. Martha died in 1994 at age 75. They had 2 children, Asa and Audrey.

Tom Oye grew up on a celery farm in Salem, Oregon. Martha's family ran a dry goods store in Seattle, Oregon.

Tom Oye attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. He was a member of the U.S. Army's 100th Battalion and 442nd Combat Infantry group (442nd/100th), the first all-Japanese American Nisei military unit. He later attended law school and worked for General Mills from which he retired. In addition, Tom was in the Army Reserve for 20 years, retiring at the rank of Lt. Col.

Martha worked as a secretary for 20 years. She was an active member of her church. Martha loved to sew, cook, and garden.

Tom was a volunteer for the city of Edina, MN. The city gives an award in his name for the "Volunteer of the Year". He was a driver for "Meals on Wheels" for many years. He did this until he became too ill to continue.

One of Tom's favorite activities was playing 5 card draw poker. He enjoyed investing in the stock market. The proceeds of his investments are the source of funding for the Oye scholarship.

Tom worked hard to achieve his life goals. He always maintained a positive outlook on life and on people. Martha was always cheerful and very upbeat on life.