



Masasuke A. Kawasaki

1925 - 2007



Masasuke "Mat" Kawasaki was named MHSFI Chairman of the Board July 1, 2006, after serving as Board Member of MHSFI since December of 1994. Mr. Kawasaki was a dedicated Board Member. His unfailing graciousness and thoughtful demeanor brought enormous wisdom, humor and penetrating insight to Board discussions.

Having a well-honed sense of business philanthropy, and the workings of the nonprofit sector he was a remarkable example of the way in which the contributions of a single individual can do so much to establish the traditions and cultures of an organization.

As individuals privileged to have known him, we are what we are today in part because of his genuine affection and encouragement that remain deeply rooted in our Foundation. We are deeply appreciative that Masasuke "Mat" Kawasaki's legacy and generosity will long help us to grow stronger and to create a healthier world for others.

FULL OBITUARY:

Masasuke "Mat" Kawasaki on June 8, 2007 surrounded by his family. Beloved husband to Sato Kawasaki for 52 years. Cherished father to Talo, Gilo, and Lumie. Caring father-in-law to Jeffrey Protzel. Adored grandfather to Reina and Mei Protzel. Much-loved son of the late Takechika and Nao Kawasaki, and admired brother to Aya Hinata, Kiyu, Chie, Yutaka (deceased), Takeo, and Tadasuke Kawasaki, Tomi Fujima, and Reiko Kamei in Japan. Dearly loved friend to many. Masasuke was 82 years of age; born in Karafto, Japan; and attended Yonchu, Itsu-ko, and Tokyo University. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Michigan in naval architecture / marine engineering, where he attained a Masters degree. In pursuit of his dreams, he came to the United States in 1956, living in New Orleans and Slidell, La. He was the founder and owner of Design Associates, Inc, and was respected and beloved by his employees throughout the years for his kindness and generosity. He is the inventor of several engineering patents, designing a ""better mousetrap" in marine engineering. He had an enduring love of learning, pursuing a PhD in mathematics/physics until his death. He was an avid reader, had an endless curiosity and joy for life. He was a strong leader and supporter of the Methodist Church, serving as lay leader in the First United Methodist Church (Slidell, LA), lay representative to several United Methodist Louisiana Conferences, Chairman of the Methodist Health System Foundation, former Chairman of the Board for the Methodist Home for Children, and was a long-standing Board of Trustees member of Centenary College of Louisiana. He was also a long-term member of Gideons International. He lived by the words of his father, ""if it is a good thing to do and you can do it, then you should do it." His wisdom, strength, compassion, generosity, sense of humor, twinkling eyes, and easy smile will be greatly missed, but provide a legacy for all who knew and loved him. Friends and family are invited to attend the Memorial Service at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Slidell, LA on Saturday, June 23 at 11:00 AM. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM. In his memory, donations to the First United Methodist Church, 433 Erlanger Street, Slidell, LA 70458 are preferred. A guestbook may be signed online at www.legacy.com. - See more at:

<http://obits.nola.com/obituaries/nola/obituary.aspx?pid=89447643#sthash.OyDvTKvo.dpuf>