



# Muriel Y. Y. Leong

FEB 14, 1919 - JAN 14, 2016



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HAWAIIAN  
MEMORIAL PARK MORTUARY  
AT VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

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# Muriel Y. Y. Leong

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**M**uriel Y. Y. Leong  
2/14/2019 – 1/14/2016

Muriel Yuk Yung Ho Leong passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 14, one month shy of her 97th birthday. Second oldest of 16 children, she was born in Puna, Hawaii to father Ho Mai Sing and mother Young Sung Yee. To help her family, she was sent at age 12 to work as a maid, the first of many challenging jobs. In 1936 she married Sun Leong and dedicated her life to provide lovingly for their children – Ronald, Joyce, Oren and Karen.

Muriel blossomed from a timid housewife into a vivacious, enterprising woman. She worked as a waitress at the Red Rooster, the Wagon Wheel and the Halekulani. Waitressing was an art she perfected over 32 years. Tourists worldwide wrote her thank you letters. Purveying homemade chutneys & jams to supplement wages, she funded college for her children. Always self-sacrificing, she gave generously to family and friends. Her one personal reward was to replace the old house at 3456 Campbell Avenue with a new one in which she lived happily alone.

In 1981 Muriel launched a second career in childcare, fostering social skills in ages 0 -4, specializing in potty-training. By word of mouth, working mothers sought her out and entrusted their newborns to her. Over a period of 20 years Popo tended to 148 children.

She loved puttering in her yard. Edibles sprouted everywhere – limes, figs, watercress, bok choy, onions, squashes, noni. Muriel was also a voracious reader and writer, scribbling notes to record her life until her sight was afflicted with macular degeneration. Garrulously she continued to regale all with her dramatic tales until the very end.

Son Ronald died in 1954. Husband Sun Leong died in December 2000. Muriel is survived by daughters Joyce Chuang (Dr. Katok Chuang) and Karen Fenton (Jay) and son Dr. Oren Leong (Dr. Jo Ann Leong); five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Her surviving siblings are sisters Betty Araujo, Billie Ching, Elizabeth Martin and Janet Crabbe; brothers Thomas Ho and Peter Ho.



## Obituary

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Thank you to Teo Gallegos and her staff at A Caring Touch for their loving attention to Popo in her final years.




Aloha Attire

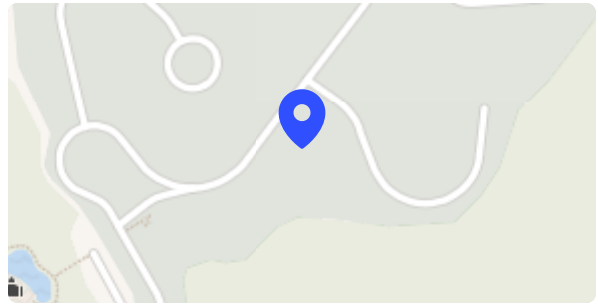
Flowers are welcome

No Monetary Gifts






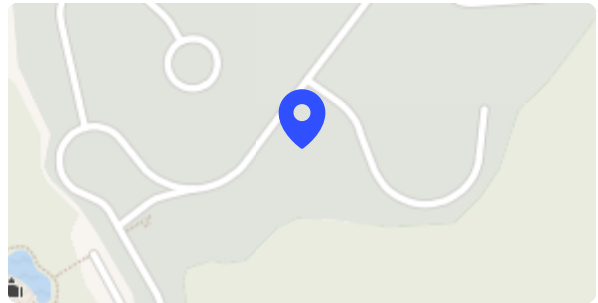
## Visitation

-  **Friday**, February 5, 2016
-  9:30 AM - 10:30 AM HST
-  **Valley of the Temples Chapel Lanai**  
47-200 Kahekili Highway, Kaneohe HI 96744






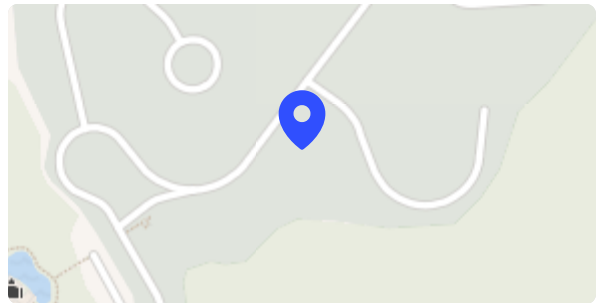
## Service

-  **Friday**, February 5, 2016
-  10:30 AM - 11:30 AM HST
-  **Valley of the Temples Chapel Lanai**  
47-200 Kahekili Highway, Kaneohe HI 96744



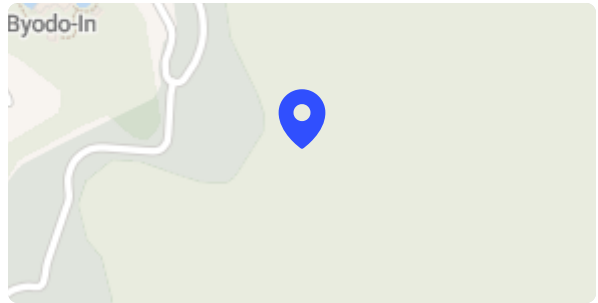
## Burial Following Services

-  **Friday**, February 5, 2016
-  12:00 PM - 12:30 PM HST
-  **Valley of the Temples Chapel Lanai**  
47-200 Kahekili Highway, Kaneohe HI 96744



## Cemetery Details

-  **Valley of the Temples Memorial Park, Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral**  
47-200 Kahekili Highway, Kaneohe HI 96744
-  **(808) 725-2798**





## Tribute Wall

**Muriel Y. Y. Leong**

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AM

**Amanda** posted:

I was one of the many children that Popo cared for. I spent a lot of my time at Popo's house with proof of many of my baby pictures being polaroids from her, carefully annotated with the dates and names of all the other children. My mom has told me a lot of stories of my time while I was there: the other kids I would play with, how I went on my first bus ride with Popo, how she potty-trained me, and even how she clothes-pinned my mouth after I bit another baby (I did not bite another kid ever again to this day). I learned a lot of invaluable lessons at a young age while being at Popo's house. I was an only child, and if I had not been under the care of Popo, I would not have been as socially adjusted and confident once I started preschool. During my time in preschool, I befriended another girl who was crying on her first day there, saying to her "dont worry, I'll be your friend." I also learned about being kind from Popo. In elementary and middle school, we continued to visit her during the holidays and I told her that I wanted to become an eye doctor so that I could fix her vision. And although optometry is not the profession I am pursuing now, she has taught me how one person can affect many people through unsparing generosity and kindness. I hope that as I continue on with my life, I can have the lasting impact that Popo has had in this world. She will be remembered for her strength, goodwill, and compassion. Popo, may you rest in peace. -Amanda (23)

February 7 at 3:12 AM

MA

**Marie** posted:

Popo took care of my son Mitchell from the age of 4 months until he was 4. Popo was not only a great caregiver and influenced Mitchell in so many positive ways, but she gave me invaluable parenting advise. She took Mitchell when he was sick, when I was late working and when I needed some time to myself. Mitchell and I are so grateful to Popo. Popo I know you are in heaven eating hamburger and fries from Burger King!

February 2 at 2:40 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Muriel by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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