



## Frank Koba

November 1, 1918 - March 20, 2008

Longtime Moses Lake resident and business owner, Frank Y. Koba passed away March 20, 2008 at Samaritan Hospital. He was born November 1, 1918 in Steveston, British Columbia to Kichijiro and Fui (Hayashi) Koba. The Kobas lived on Bainbridge Island where Frank graduated from high school in 1937. Following internment at Manzanar, California and Minidoka, Idaho during WWII, Frank moved to Moses Lake where he and his brothers worked for the Hansen family and later farmed on the Brown Ranch. He met his wife Miyo Konishi while working on the ranch. They were married November 23, 1946 in Seattle, Washington. Frank and Miyo bought Frank's Grocery in January 1952. Frank's Grocery has been a neighborhood fixture in Moses Lake for 56 years. Frank served generations of families and was able to recall the names of many of the kids as they returned with their small children to share the tradition of Frank's. One of Frank's passions was to support the Moses Lake Chiefs' athletic programs. For many years, He and Doc Young attended every Chief football game, home and away, win or lose. Frank was often contacted by school students as a resource for the history of the internment of Japanese Americans. He was an important contributor to the first group of the Japanese Agricultural Exchange students in 1966. He was often asked to interpret and emcee special events for the program. Frank and Miyo enjoyed having the students in their home for traditional Japanese meals and entertainment. He was known in the community for his kind and generous spirit and he will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Miyo Koba, his three children Rick (Kathy), of Moses Lake, Marsha of Soap Lake, Doug (Jeanne) of Phoenix, AZ and grandchildren Kalin (Joel) Armstrong of Spokane, Taylor and Alexa of Phoenix, AZ, brother Harry of Seattle and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Fujiko Sakuma and brothers Robert, Fred, and John.

A Memorial service will be held Tuesday March 25, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 1142 West Ivy, Moses Lake. Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel and Crematory, Moses Lake. Sign the guestbook or leave a note for the family at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com).

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 25. 1:00 PM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church  
1142 W. Ivy  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall



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med longaberger homestead###imported-begin###adopipamagiab###imported-  
end##

November 22, 2008 at 07:30 PM



“ To the Koba's, I offer my prayers and love. I have extremely fond memories of your family. I like many went to school with Marsha and have great memories. Frank, however, draws tears to my eyes. I loved that man and know he had a great influence in my growing up (I am not so sure I have reached that pinnacle as yet) Miyo and Frank were instrumental in the maturity growth of nearly all of Garden Heights WEElementary School. At least they kept our sugar levels at an astronomical high. Frank I love you and will always remember you. With all my heart and love, Dougie###imported-begin###Doug Smith###imported-end##

April 08, 2008 at 01:21 PM



“ All through High School there was no better place to go than Frank's store for Red Vines! He was such a great example of humility and selflessness - he will be missed. My heartfelt thanks to the Koba Family for sharing such a great man for so many years.###imported-begin###Jess Morris###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 12:38 AM



“ I graduated the class of 1973, my fondest memories are the drivein, the spillway and of course Frank's. How lucky we were to have him!###imported-begin###Susan Williams###imported-end##

March 28, 2008 at 08:38 PM



“ Frank will be missed by all who knew him. (Didn't everyone know him!!!) Our thoughts and prayer go out to Frank's family. Frank had a huge impact on all of our 4 children!! They grew up at Frank's Market. Our Ron and Scott Griggs went to coffee everyday at Frank's, until Ron moved to Spokane!! Frank was a true gentleman, and it was a priviledge to know him. May it comfort you all to know, that Frank is safe in God's care, and that his friends are praying for you, in your time of sorrow.###imported-begin###Paul and Cathy Kersey###imported-end##

March 28, 2008 at 01:21 PM



“ Rick and family--so sorry about the passing of your dad!! He will not be forgotten by me and many others who were "regulars" during summer breaks from school. My dad still talks about seeing "frank up in the stands at the high school basketball games"! What a great man he was--thank you for sharing your dad with us! Thinking of all of you!##imported-begin##Cathy (Carranco) LaGrave##imported-end##

March 27, 2008 at 08:33 PM



“ Frank was always the nicest fellow. I grew up on the corner of Skyline & Nelson, and made daily trips to Frank's for my Mom, or for candy for me. Frank taught me honesty and friendliness, as well as humility. Katie and I went to school with Marsha, and it was easy to see that he passed those values on to all of his children. Frank, Miyo, Rick, Marsha, and Doug, you have made our lives better my your presence in them. Thank you for being a part of our lives.##imported-begin##Larry & Katie Rigsby##imported-end##

March 26, 2008 at 07:33 PM



“ We are so sorry about Frank's passing. He was such a great man. Roger and I have such fond memories of both of you. I am so glad that Zach and Josh had the opportunity to know your hospitality and friendship. Frank will be missed. You all take care and we will see you soon at the store!##imported-begin##Roger & Eileen Martinez##imported-end##

March 26, 2008 at 02:03 PM



“ Koba family, so very sorry for your loss. As a kid I remember any time I was in the area I always made an effort to stop by and play video games, talk sports and buy candy. Frank was always so nice to all of us who stopped by. He will be missed but never forgotten.  
Darren Schaible Maumee Ohio##imported-begin##Darren Schaible##imported-end##

March 26, 2008 at 10:08 AM



“ I am sorry to hear of the passing of Frank. He did have a quick wit and personally greeted everyone who entered his store. My earliest experience of buying candy was at Frank's Market. I delivered CBH newspapers that I picked up at Franks on the way home from school during the 5th Grade in Elementary School. I wish I had gotten to know the Koba family and other Japanese families in ML better. Many of them went through some tough times facing severe discrimination during WWII.

Our condolences to the Koba family.

Paul & Yasuko Oman

Woodbridge, VA###imported-begin###Paul Oman###imported-end###

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March 25, 2008 at 10:36 PM



“ To Frank's Family,

Your father was a kind gentleman who always had a smile on his face when I would come into his store at lunch time while attending MLHS 35 years ago.

My thoughts are with your family at this time.###imported-begin###Marie Hagerty-Jones###imported-end###

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March 25, 2008 at 09:06 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the Koba family. Frank and his family were a big part of my high school years as I walked and then drove to the High School nearly every day from 1967 to 1969. You all always had a nice word to say along with a smile to brighten my day. I'm sure Frank will be missed by many!

Sincerely,

Jerry Olson

Class of 1969###imported-begin###Jerry Olson###imported-end###

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March 25, 2008 at 05:28 PM



“ I have many wonderful memories of Frank and his family. He made a difference in my life. Thank you Frank. We lived on skyline drive across from the store and enjoyed so much the friendly family atmosphere of the store. We always made it a point to stop and say hello whenever we were in town.

We send our condolences and warm wishes to his family.###imported-begin###Bill & Gisela Rigsby###imported-end###

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March 25, 2008 at 05:28 PM



“ WE WERE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF FRANK'S PASSING. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND THE FAMILY.  
HE HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO THE COMMUNITY ON NELSON HILL. WE WILL NEVER FORGET FRANK.  
CHUCK AND DOLLY MARTIN###imported-begin##chuck and dolly martin###imported-end##

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March 25, 2008 at 05:08 PM



“ On behalf of the Jeff Earl Family, we wanted to express our sincere condolences to all of the Koba family. We cannot think of a nicer person and one who has had such a positive influence on generations of young and old people alike. He truly was a wonderful and kind person.

*With our love and appreciation.*

*The Jeff Earl Family - Jeff, Becky, Daishan, Britney, Brandon and Kelsey###imported-begin##Jeff Earl Family###imported-end##*

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March 25, 2008 at 04:31 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Miyo and your family  
God Bless###imported-begin##Jenny Harrington (Head) & Jim###imported-end##

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March 25, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ We are in California at Becky's and heard of Frank's passing yesterday. I don't need to tell you how special he was to both of us and the special place you all have in our hearts. You have our deepest sympathy.###imported-begin##Bob and Sharon Bernd###imported-end##

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March 25, 2008 at 02:04 PM



“ I am so very saddened about your loss. I started going to Franks market when my family moved into town in the early 70's. We lived on top of Nelson hill. My 3 brothers and I would go to Franks everyday. He would joke with us and sometimes be onery. When we started having our own children they new all about Franks. Frank and Miyo knew all our childrens names and it always amazed me they would never forget them as they grew up. Frank will be greatly missed but he is now doing his part in heaven. God bless you Koba family--you have an awesome Angel watching over you now!###imported-begin##Cheryl (Martin) Spies###imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 01:29 PM



“ Frank will be missed by everyone in the community he truly was an icon. He was always so kind,generous and an inspiration to my sons when they were growing up and running into the store frequently with their dimes and nickels. He took the time to ask about each one of my sons by name when I would stop in years after they had left home. Frank always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye. He was a friend to everyone. My sympathy goes out to Miyo and the family during this difficult time. God bless each of you.

The Webster Family###imported-begin##Emily Webster & sons, Andrew and Chris###imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 12:49 PM



“ Miyo and Rick,  
My deepest sympathy in the loss of Frank. He was a great community member and kind to all. Cherish your memories. Sincerely, Kyra###imported-begin##Kyra Baerlocher, Kyra Wines###imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 10:23 AM



“ Frank was a Moses Lake icon. The care given to the community and the way Frank and Miyo raised the youth of Moses Lake was an inspiration. I no longer live in Moses Lake, but when I come home to visit relatives, I always stop by Frank's market to visit uncle Frank and aunt Miyo.

My best wishes to the Koba family in your time of sorrow and reflection. I will miss being called by first name each time I enter the store. 40 years ago or last week.###imported-begin##Jon Penhallurick###imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 09:53 AM



“ Frank will be missed. Growing up, Frank's Market was always a favorite place of mine to visit. I will always have fond memories of him. He was a wonderful man. Goodbye Frank. I'll see you again someday.##imported-begin##Brian Oakley##imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 06:44 AM



“ Sorry.. Neppel.. Frank did NOT teach me to spell... Love Ya, Moses Lakers and especially the Koba's... David##imported-begin##David Miles Oman##imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 04:28 AM



“ Dear Koba family.. Wow.. my mind is awash with a flood of memories from your family's influence in my childhood and early youth. We moved to Moses Lake in August 1954. Soon thereafter Doug Smith and I made our way to special shops in town... Bill's market, R & E Grocery, Shad's 24 Flavors, Sigman's, Dell's Cycle Shop.. I loved them all but my favorite of was FRANKS GROCERY. We could trade in Beer Bottles for 2 cents and Pop bottles for 5 cents.. and at first we could get bubblegum ..2 for a penny..then the prices went way up.. ChumGum was 3 sticks for a nickel. We could turn-in a dozen beer bottles and a like number of Nesbitts bottles and we went away with entire bag brimming with goodies.. 2 Sour Apples, 2 Sour Grapes, 2 Sputniks (my favorites), 2 Charm Pops, 2 Oh Henrys, 2 Almond Joys, 2 BigHunks, 2 Popcycles, and a Hostess Twinkie (2 of em).. and we still had 10 cents for Church Tithing. All this for 94 cents!

My basic math skills were not taught to me by Mrs. Boyce, nor Mrs. Shemp.. it was at Frank's that I learned this.

my dear Koba friends.. I love and cherish the memories of you and your family. I saw how you treated your parents and love you for that too. As my parents aged I thought of your example many times and tried my best to duplicate this loving relationship. My life is richer to have known you for all those years. And it nice that I was let behind the counter sometimes, too. And I never snuck even one piece of candy.. You trusted and loved me and Icherished that trust and friendship. Nepal and Moses Lake are going to greatly miss you Frank. A big hello and farewell from Sandy, Utah to you all.. Love, David Miles Oman##imported-begin##David Miles Oman##imported-end##

March 25, 2008 at 04:21 AM



“ Dear Mrs.Koba,  
I had always told myself that if something ever happened to Frank that I would attend his funeral, unfortunatley, I am unable to attend.  
I just want you to know how much Frank meant to me. I have always kept him in my prayers and in my thoughts. I worried about him. Wanted to make sure that he was okay. I will surely miss him. The one thing that I am sure of is that Frank had a good life. He always did what he enjoyed.  
You know Mrs. Koba, I know that you two had a lot of kids come through your store, but I will always feel as though I was the only one that Frank let behind the counter. I have many memories of him letting me go behind the counter and letting me pick the candy I wanted.  
I will truly miss him. I will always carry him in my heart.  
Sincerely,

Monie DeLeon Vasquez###imported-begin###Monie DeLeon Vasquez###imported-end##

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March 25, 2008 at 01:38 AM



“ I am sorry to hear of your loss, i always liked him.... he was a neat guy and i remember stopping at the the store when i was a little kid, And many times later on just to tell him HI. God Bless!###imported-begin###Dave DeTrolio###imported-end##

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March 25, 2008 at 12:17 AM



“ Rick, I am so sorry to read of Frank's death. please give our regards to your mother, sister and brother and all the family. Our prayers are with you all. Phil and Jan Signorelli###imported-begin###phil signorelli###imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:55 PM



“ I am deeply saddened by the news of Frank's passing. Frank and his family were a big part of my young years just like so many that grew up in that neighborhood. My friends and I would spend hours hanging out at the store with Frank, Rick, & Doug talking sports, playing video games, and going through baseball cards. With our community growing so rapidly, Frank, his family, and the store together are an icon to hold on to always. Thank you Frank.###imported-begin###Pat Bishop###imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:52 PM



“ I would like to send my condolences to your family for your terrible loss. Your family is full of the nicest, most caring individuals. One of my most prominent memories of my childhood is that of the store and the big smile on Frank’s face as my brothers and I would walk-in. He would be sitting on the stool in the back of the store, but would always get up and walk to say hi. I would have a dollar in my pocket and Frank would always patiently help me count out the hundred pieces of candy, no matter how long it took. On one occasion, I remember my brothers getting irritated because I was taking so long, but Frank kindly told them to be patient. They never said a word, just stood there and waited. (This was rare!)

*I know your family has lost one of the most genuine, gentle and considerate human beings that I, as others, have ever had the privilege to meet. You are in my family’s thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. I am so sorry for your loss.....*

*Yours truly,*

*Kendra Pfundheller and family##imported-begin##Kendra Pfundheller-Moos##imported-end##*

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March 24, 2008 at 11:50 PM



“ Living only 3 houses away from Frank's market, Frank was a big part of my childhood memories as I visited him frequently throughout the years. I am very saddened by our community's loss. My deepest sympathies to his family.##imported-begin##Kathryn Tolman##imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:41 PM



“ One of my fond memories of Moses Lake was walking to Franks store when I was a kid in the 50s and early 60s. He gave me free candy once in awhile-at 62 years old I still remember. Each time I get back to Moses Lake to do some remembering of my youth, I always drive past Franks then to my old boyhood home. Thanks for the memories Frank.##imported-begin##Gordon Knutson##imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:37 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Koba and family members,  
I am saddened to hear of Frank's passing, but know he has been in frail health for some time. I enjoyed him so much! We had such fun betting on the world series; he would call me at the office and we would establish our team and bet the awesome sum of \$1.00. But, it was so much fun and I looked forward to it each year. He was always a gentlemen and a man of a gentle heart. I was thinking of him just the other day and will think of him with fondness in the years to come. It was always such a treat to come into the store and tease him and receive that big smile and ready laugh. Please accept our condolences. We are living out of town and didn't hear of his passing in time to make arrangements to attend the services.

With fondness,  
Morry and Carla Landon##imported-begin##Carla and Morry Landon##imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:34 PM



“ Our deepest condolences go out the the Koba family. Many years ago (1963) was when we moved to moses lake and started our school years going to Franks Market.I also remember the "penny candy". My fondest memory was when I was in Jr high I would get lunch money from my parents to eat at school. Instead we would walk to franks for candy, twinkies and sodas. Then when my parents would stop in, frank would tell my parents that he saw me during lunch time. There were also times that franks was so crowded during lunch that we had to go in so many students at a time. the rest had to wait outside. God receieved a wonderful and caring man in heaven. God bless the family as they carry on until they may be with Frank again. Sue Shults Hodges##imported-begin##susan (shults) hodges##imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:30 PM



“ my message is simple that what i remeber about the market frank was smart when people were in there at school lunch breaks were fine but when it was not a lunch break he would some how call the school and one of the advisors would bust us there and ask us if there was something that they could help us with cause his store was not class lol##imported-begin##cammy cullinan##imported-end##

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March 24, 2008 at 11:25 PM



“ *The memory of Frank brings a smile to my face. He always had a smile for us when we came through the door. He would joke and visit with us as picked out our penny candies. Having a lemonade stand in the summer just so you could make the trip to "Frank's" and spend ever cent was a rite of summer in the neighborhood.*

*My children loved to come visit Grammy Marie Mclean...but leaving to head home to Seattle meant a stop at "Frank's".*

*My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

*Love, Lynne McLean Birmingham##imported-begin##Lynne McLean Birmingham##imported-end##*

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March 24, 2008 at 11:13 PM



“ *Rick & Family*

*Our thoughts & prayers are with you. We are sorry we could not be there for support. We are currently living in Georgia, but we will always remember your family and how sweet your father and mother were to us whenever we went into Franks Market.*

*Laura Silvers & Family##imported-begin##Laura Silvers##imported-end##*

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March 24, 2008 at 10:46 PM



“ *I saw Doug today and he told me that Frank had passed away. I left the store and immediately the thoughts of growing up on Sharon Ave came back to me. Those thoughts of my childhood, definitely included Frank. He was like a father, grandfather and friend all wrapped up into one. I probably spent more time with him in the store than I did at home during the summer time. He was always quick to offer a positive word of encouragement about whatever sport you were involved in and then the day after an event, he was quick to point out some of those things that might need improvement. I remember the first time I took my girls into meet Frank. He told the girls that their mama must be very pretty, because they did not look anything like me, and as we were leaving he told the girls that their daddy was a real handful when he was young. Frank will be truly missed. He was one of a kind. Todd, Thad, Ron and Lynn Griffith##imported-begin##Todd, Thad, Ron and Lynn Griffith##imported-end##*

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March 24, 2008 at 09:59 PM



“ We are saddened for your loss. Frank was a great person who toughed many lives. With a kind and generous heart, we will never forget his smile. Always in our prayers. Love Cheryl & Murriel(Potter Drug)###imported-begin###CHERYL BODI & MURRIEL FRANKS###imported-end###

March 24, 2008 at 09:56 PM



“ I am sorry to hear of Frank's passing. I am thinking of your family during this difficult time. I know that many people in Moses Lake have fond memories of "Franks Market". I thought it was great that my mom was able to find special items that no others in town would have. The Koba family always made you feel special when walking through thier door. Thank you for those memories.###imported-begin###Sandra Shimmin###imported-end###

March 24, 2008 at 09:39 PM



“ Frank made a great impression on me as a child and during my teens. He was a great help to me as a teenager particularly after my father passed away. Now almost 30 years after I left Moses Lake I still think of him often and even my now grown kids want to stop by Frank's when we are in Moses Lake. Thank you Miyo, Rick, Marsha and Doug for sharing your father with the Community and with me.###imported-begin###Roger Wright###imported-end###

March 24, 2008 at 09:02 PM



“ To the Koba Family,  
Your husband, father, and grandfather was a wonderful man. In 1979 when our family was going through a very tough time and not enough money to get through the month, Frank let us get food on credit. He knew that we would always pay him back--which we did! I always tell people how kind he was and what he did for our family!  
God bless you, our prayers are with you now!  
The Jackson's###imported-begin###Daryl & Lana, sons, Darrin & Marc Jackson###imported-end###

March 24, 2008 at 08:32 PM



“ We are so saddened by your loss. Your loss is shared by a community that will never be the same. Frank was such a great guy. Even our eight-year old Granddaughter knew who Frank was. As the paper said, Frank served generations and we will never forget.

The Miers Family##imported-begin##Steven & Tammi Miers##imported-end##

March 24, 2008 at 08:12 PM



“ The Koba Family, Frank was special to us as you all are. We will remember all the good digs we had in the store. RIP old friend you really earned it. We'll see you again someday.##imported-begin##David and Sawako Short##imported-end##

March 24, 2008 at 07:21 PM



“ Frank, I remember the days when my sister and I went to your house...so long ago! I should have come and saw you when I first heard that you weren't doing well. I will always remember you, and your store! I've lived across from you for 23 years now. You were like a grandfather to us. I will miss you deeply. Take care and I know you are in a better place now. Tell my mom hi and that I miss her and love her! Take care of her!! Miss you Frank.  
xoxo##imported-begin##Kristine Strite##imported-end##

March 24, 2008 at 06:10 PM



“ Frank will be greatly missed. I always tried to stop and see him when in town. My prayers are with his family at this time.##imported-begin##Joyce (Crago) Pleugh##imported-end##

March 24, 2008 at 12:16 PM