



## Kay "KK" Kobata

June 6, 1934 - June 14, 2019

Kay Kobata, resident of Stratford, WA and long time farmer since 1949, passed away June 14, 2019 at McKay Healthcare and Re-Hab Center in Soap Lake, WA.

Kay was born in Kent, WA June 6, 1934. Kay's father Sam Kobata immigrated to the United States from Japan, became a U.S. citizen and purchased a farm in the Stratford area. Kay and his brother Roy began farming with their father and uncle in 1949.

A graduate from Wilson Creek High School, Kay went to college at CWU and Washington State College and concentrated on business management. Kay served in the Army and discharged early due to the accidental death of his brother and his father needing Kay's help with the farm. In 1978 Kay became the surviving member of the family farm operation.

Kay enjoyed trap shooting which he won many trophies. He also liked hunting and fishing. He made several trips to Alaska, mainly for fishing after he retired from farming. He enjoyed being with his friends and taking trips to Reno and Las Vegas, and he enjoyed life.

Kay was preceded in death by his father Sam Kobata and mother Norma Kobata, brother Roy Kobata and sister Irene Uchita. Kay is survived by his niece Martha Conrardt, nephew's Perry Uchita and Earl Uchita, cousin Gary Kobata and wife Connie and many other cousins, good friends Bobby Anderson and Faith Anderson, Robert Treiber, Mark Bently, John and Sharon Roberds ,Kay (DeDe) Gray and many others.

Kay established the Sam Kobata and Sons foundation to help high school graduates and encourage both high school and college students to study the agriculture sciences.

Kay was a very gentle man who never had a harsh word toward anyone. He will be sorely missed.

There will be a funeral service held at 10:00 a.m., June 25, 2019 at Kayser's Chapel of Memories in Moses Lake followed by a graveside service at Pioneer Memorial Gardens.

# Cemetery Details

## Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne  
Moses Lake, WA

# Previous Events

## Service

JUN 25. 10:00 AM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories  
831 S. Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ We are so saddened to hear of Mr. Kobata's passing. We did not know him, but he made a difference in my daughter's life because of the scholarship that he founded. She is a current recipient and could not be more appreciative. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of this great man who has no doubt made a difference for countless others as well.

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**The Lengenfelder family** - June 27, 2019 at 05:06 PM

EJ

“ Condolences to all the Family & close friends of Kay. My name is Eric Jacobson & from 1960 I lived near Stratford on our family farm. I think I knew the Kobatas most of my life, liked & respect that family. Off & on I worked for Kay & found him to be a very good man, quite humorous at times. I like to think of Kay as a young man in the 60s wearing his aviator sun glasses driving his late model Pontiacs to fast with a big wave as he went by. He always made me feel welcome & I still appreciate that. R.I.P. Kay

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**Eric Jacobson** - June 25, 2019 at 02:29 AM

AK

“ I was saddened to hear that Kay Kobata has passed away. My late husband, Dana Kelby, went to school with Kay in Wilson Creek. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. - Ann Kelby and family.

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**Ann Kelby** - June 25, 2019 at 01:13 AM

GS

“ Kay was my father's close friend for many decade. He was the Best Man for my father, Thomas Shimura, when my parents married. My brother and I called him Uncle Kay. He was a very close friend of the family and always supported us through the milestones in life. Our family will miss him greatly. Rest in Peace, Uncle Kay.

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**Gail Shimura-Brightbill** - June 24, 2019 at 04:49 PM

PR

“ My Dad work for Kay for 20 some years. As well as my brothers and sisters. He was a great friend to my dad. When my Dad passed away he help our Mother with the funeral expenses. We will be always be great full for this kind jester. Rest in happiness Kay  
The Perales Family

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**Porfirio and RoyPerales** - June 21, 2019 at 10:04 AM

BY

“ When Mr. Kabota retired from farming, Chuck Yarbro Auctioneers was honored to sell his surplus equipment at auction. I remember him as a very kind, good natured seller who was very cordial to our crew and me in particular as I had recently been injured and confined to my wheelchair. He was anxious to help me to the car when we left after the auction. We had intended to return and take him to dinner but our auction schedule precluded a lot of those good intentions. I wish we had done so.

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**Beth Yarbro** - June 20, 2019 at 11:43 PM

RB

*I was deeply saddened by the news of Kay's passing. I was in Colorado to a wedding and just returned last night. I farmed Kay's farm for over 25 years and in all that time never had a disagreement with him. He was such a gentleman and a wonderful landlord. I respected him more than words can ever express. I want the Kobata family to know that I thought he was a great man and appreciate him so very much. It was great working with you all those years, RIP Kay.*

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**Ross Bair** - June 28, 2019 at 12:33 AM