



Miyo Koba

January 1, 2026

Miyo Koba passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026 at Samaritan Hospital, with family at her side. Miyo lived most of her 101 years in Moses Lake. She was born in Toppenish, WA, where her parents, Frank and Tomi, were farmers. Miyo was the fourth of eight children, and she learned to work hard while helping with her younger siblings and farm chores as she grew up. She graduated from Toppenish Senior High School, but was unable to attend her commencement ceremony in May 1942 due to the curfew imposed on Japanese Americans prior to the impending World War II era evacuation to the internment camps. Miyo and her family were relocated first to the Portland Assembly Center and then to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in northwestern Wyoming. When the family was released from the internment camp in 1945, they settled in Moses Lake to join her sister and brother-in-law. It was in Moses Lake that she met Frank Koba, who would become her husband of over 61 years.

Miyo and Frank married on November 23, 1946 in Seattle, WA, where they lived for a short time before moving back to Moses Lake. Married life brought a growing family, first Rick, followed by Marsha and Doug. One of Frank and Miyo's biggest moments was the purchase of Frank's Grocery in January 1952. From the store, they served generations of families and school children in the neighborhood.

Miyo had a passion for gardening and loved growing tomatoes, peaches, vegetables, roses and her prized geraniums. Her front yard was a show piece

to all who passed by. She was a skilled cook and learned many of her recipes from her mother. She enjoyed preparing food for family and friends, and many hours were spent sharing food and laughter around her large dining room table. As a younger woman, Miyo was an avid dancer, bowler and golfer. Many locals know that she later put one of those golf clubs to good use at age 89.

Miyo is survived by her sons, Rick (Kathy) of Moses Lake, Doug (Jeanne) of Phoenix, AZ; granddaughters Kalin (Joel) Armstrong, Alexa (Justin) Sandusky; grandson Taylor Koba; great-granddaughter Adalynn Sandusky; sisters Margie Hattori and Fumi Nakamura; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, and daughter, Marsha and siblings Kiyo, Joe, Yuri, Ich and Janice.

A memorial service will be held at a later date to be determined.

Arrangements are under the care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Our deepest condolences to the Koba family. We have lived in Moses Lake for 57 years. The Jackson family, is the 4th generation to have the privilege to have known, Frank & Miyo. They were the kindest people we have known. I was privileged to get a start of Miyo’s scented geranium. Rest in peace Miyo.
The Daryl Jackson family

Daryl Jackson - January 12 at 09:21 AM



“ Gregory Cochran & Family lit a candle in memory of Miyo Koba



Gregory Cochran & Family - January 08 at 11:22 PM

JC

“ I remember her from walking to franks mkt during school lunch period and later when I worked at patton park and delivered stock to Frank and her and go to franks for those special Asian food items..Rest in Peace

Jerry Chavez - January 06 at 11:00 PM

HM

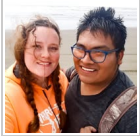
“ She was such a kind, sweet woman.. This eoman was a Moses Lake icon along with her husband, Frank.. May they rest in peace.
Love & hugs to her family.

Holly Moos - January 06 at 12:26 PM

JC

“ I was going by the store one day and she was out putting a hose on the yard I stopped and asked her if she needed help and of course she said no but i got out of my car and helped put it where she wanted what a sweet lady. Rest in peace.

Jackie Cooper - January 06 at 06:26 AM



“ May she rest in peace. She lived a long, beautiful life. My condolences to the family.

Kassandra Wareham - January 05 at 11:42 PM

MG

“ Like many I have known Miyo most of my life. We always felt like she and Frank were part of our family. Miyo was such a sweet, kind lady. Always enjoyed looking at her flowers too. Happy that she and Frank are back together.

Merlynn Wright Gullings

Merlynn Wright Gullings - January 05 at 11:09 PM

MS

Dear Koba Families, a community is missing your momma and grieving the loss of her with you. She and yourdad were such a huge part of our childhood. Thank you for the blessings they provided many and in return asked for nothing. What an honor to have known them both. Thank you for letting us know of Miyo's passing and allowing us to honor your family. God's blessings to you.

Mikki Snead - January 06 at 01:29 PM

RW

“ *What a wonderful woman. I loved her and Frank and spent many an hour in their store in the 60's and 70's. They were some of the kindest, most caring people that I've ever known. I consider it a privilege to have known them. Rick and Doug, I hope you guys know what a great blessing your parents were to the community. Sincerely, Roger Wright*

Roger Wright - January 05 at 10:39 PM

DH

“ *My Condolences Rick, Doug and families Your Dad and Mom were Great people, I remember your Mom from the store as well as your Dad. Remember your Dad down at the ballpark eating frozen Snickers bars.*



Denise Hancock - January 05 at 05:50 PM

ER

“ *Sweet lady. Known her since grade school. May she Rest In Paradise 🙏*

Eloise Ramos - January 05 at 04:03 PM

JL

“ *Heaven gained an angel on the first day of 2026. Mrs Koba was also an angel on earth. RIP dear Lady, give Frank a big hug from all of us. Sorry for you loss Rick, both your Mom and Dad were true blessings to all in Moses Lake.*

Joan Lobie - January 05 at 12:45 PM