



Scott Kosuke Yamazaki

November 28, 1938 - August 15, 2025

Obituary of Scott Kosuke Yamazaki (1938–2025)

Life & Legacy

Scott Yamazaki, proud father of three children, age 86, of Canton, Michigan, died peacefully at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, surrounded by family, on August 15, 2025.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1938 to Tosuke and Lorraine Yamasaki, who were working for the U.S. Embassy prior to the war, Scott spent his early years moving with his parents and sister, Ellen, before the family settled in Washington, D.C.—the place he called “home.” A 1956 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, he went on to Georgetown University, graduating third in his class with a degree in biology while also studying theology. One of his proudest accomplishments was achieving the rank of Eagle Scout which he received in late 1956. He later pursued graduate studies at Wayne State University before beginning a 34-year career with Ford Motor Co.

A devoted Christian, Scott’s faith guided him throughout his life. After moving to Detroit, he joined St. Martha’s Episcopal Church, where he sang in the choir and met the love of his life, Barbara Ann Goodison. They married on September 5, 1964, and shared more than 60 years together, united by their love of music, singing in several church choirs and chorale groups, and for 39 years with the Beckridge Chorale (formerly Plymouth Community Chorus). Together they built a life of faith, family, friends, and music, raising their three

children—Mark, Gordon, and Jennifer—in Dearborn and later Canton, who also share their love of music.

Scott's adventurous spirit and love of learning never faded. Athletic throughout his life, he earned black belts in Judo and in Isshin-Ryū Karate. Scott began running marathons when he turned 40 and by his early 50's had completed 26 - one for each mile. A history buff as well, he fulfilled a long-time dream of hang gliding on the dunes of Kitty Hawk, where the Wright Brother's tested their first flights. In retirement, he became a Master Gardener through Michigan State University, taught himself violin, took cooking classes, and earned a Medical Assistant Certificate from Schoolcraft College. He and Barbara also shared a love of cruising, traveling throughout the Caribbean and Alaska, and delighted in exploring new places and meeting new people together.

He was a longtime leader in the Detroit Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, serving as President and helping advance the movement that led to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which secured redress for Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Scott also gave generously of his time to his church and community. He was known for his kindness, resilience, and devotion to family and friends. His loved ones cherish memories of summers at Brevort Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula—fishing, swimming, and campfires—as well as family vacations at the Outer Banks, where days were filled with beaches, fishing, and laughter. He especially loved fishing and found lasting friendship as a longtime member of the 4 Seasons Fishing Club, which also connected him with relatives who shared his passion.

Family

Scott is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara; sister, Ellen Edwards; children

Mark (Tracy), Gordon (Katy Haralampides), and Jennifer (Christopher Blair); grandson, Lukas; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Tosuke and Lorraine Yamasaki.

Service & Acknowledgements

A visitation will be held on Sunday, August 24, at 3:00 p.m. at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St., Livonia, followed by a memorial service at 4:00 p.m. and gathering at 5:00 p.m.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the caregivers (and friends) at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill and Angela Hospice for their compassionate care, and to Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, Scott's final church home, for their support and for hosting his service.

Memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 25200 Telegraph Road, Suite 100, Southfield, Michigan 48033-7443 or via the link; <https://www.alz.org/get-involved-now/donate>.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG **24**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
9601 Hubbard
Livonia, MI 48150

Memorial Service

AUG **24**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
9601 Hubbard
Livonia, MI 48150

Memorial Gathering

AUG **24**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
9601 Hubbard
Livonia, MI 48150

Tribute Wall

KH

“ I have many memories of shared vacations at Brevort Lake. My favorite is of Scott and Joe enjoying the sunset. Love. Karen Hopersberger

Karen Hopersberger. - August 21, 2025 at 10:42 AM

CB

“ I’ve only known Scott for a little more than 10 years, having met him when I started dating Jennifer. I recall being impressed with him right from our first meeting and while he was very much a gentleman, you could also detect a resolute strength under that quiet persona. Hearing the stories about his deciding to run marathons at an age when most would be stopping such endeavours and breaking bricks with his bare hands as part of his judo and karate only confirmed my initial impression. Scott loved being with his family and trips to Cape Hatteras and Brevort Lake were such wonderful adventures that I always looked forward to. His zest for life was reflected in his desire to learn music, through fishing, and later with travel with Barb. He obviously loved life and those around him and I am so grateful I knew him even for a relatively short time. Rest in Peace, Scott. Chris Blair

Chris Blair - August 20, 2025 at 09:16 PM