



Koki Ariga

July 9, 1944 - February 9, 2024

Koki Ariga, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and respectfully known as Ariga sensei, passed away on February 9, 2024 at the age of 79. His battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed his mental strength in facing life challenges with courage and determination. There is no doubt that his over 60 years of kendo training, as well as his 53 years of devoted love in marriage, defined the road in which he walked with belief, bold intention, and kindness.

Koki was introduced to Kendo by his parents in Hokkaido, Japan at the age of 9, where he grew up with his 4 brothers and 1 sister. He spent his summers on Hachijo Island, spearfishing and swimming in the ocean that he loved so much. He studied industrial engineering and was on the Chuo University Kendo team, and upon graduation, was appointed to go to Canada to develop kendo outside of Japan.

He immigrated to Canada in 1967 at the age of 23, to bring his knowledge of Kendo to North America. He taught Kendo at the Japanese Canadian Culture Center in Toronto, and he was the co-founder of Etobicoke Kendo Club. He represented Canada multiple times at the World Kendo Championships, leading Canada to two silver medals in 1973 and 1976. He met the love of his life, Maria, while working in a camera store in Toronto where their love story began.

In 1983, Koki and Maria moved to Redondo Beach, California with their 2 daughters, Adriana and Tracey. Here, he was licensed in real estate, continued teaching at Gardena Kendo Dojo, served as AUSKF Vice-President, and officiated at multiple World Kendo Championships. They then moved to Troy, Ohio where Koki helped establish F&P America, an automotive manufacturing plant where he became a Senior Purchasing Manager, while teaching Kendo at Miami Valley Kendo Club. He was president of ECUSKF, and Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan.

Together, Koki and Maria retired to Surfside Beach, South Carolina where they took time to settle down, travel, become grandparents and enjoy their family and the life they created.

Visitation and viewing will be held on Wednesday, February 14th 2024 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Goldfinch Funeral Home (11528 Highway 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576). A service follows at 3:00 PM at the same location.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 14. 3:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home Beach Chapel
11528 Highway 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Tribute Wall

TC

“ *The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Koki Ariga.*



The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre - February 20, 2024 at 12:41 PM

TC

“ *The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.*

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre - February 20, 2024 at 12:41 PM

MN

“ *Dearest Tracey and family,
Our deepest condolences. May Koki live on in your hearts, memories, and stories forever.
Love, Michelle Neljak and family*



michelle n - February 14, 2024 at 12:58 PM

MN

“ *Michelle N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.*

Michelle N. - February 14, 2024 at 12:53 PM

SC

“ On behalf of the Etobicoke Kendo Iaido club we extend our profound sympathies to the Ariga family. We are deeply saddened by the passing of our Sensei. Always remembered for his spirit and encouragement he gave to so many who may have had the privilege to have keiko with him. Forever in our hearts...
Shigetaka Kamata Carleton Underwood Stephen Cruise and each and everyone from Etobicoke Kendo Iaido.

Stephen Cruise - February 14, 2024 at 12:43 PM

RF

“ Robin Tanaka and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

Robin Tanaka and Family - February 14, 2024 at 08:59 AM

RF

“ Robin Tanaka and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Koki Ariga.



Robin Tanaka and Family - February 14, 2024 at 08:59 AM

GF

“ Greater Northeastern US kendo Federation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

Greater Northeastern US kendo Federation - February 13, 2024 at 09:56 PM

GF

“ *Greater Northeastern US kendo Federation purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Koki Ariga.*



Greater Northeastern US kendo Federation - February 13, 2024 at 09:56 PM

ST

“ *Sei Ken Kai (Katsuyuki & Chiaki Tamura) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Koki Ariga.*



Sei Ken Kai (Katsuyuki & Chiaki Tamura) - February 13, 2024 at 08:59 PM

SO

“ *Southern California Kendo Organization purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Koki Ariga.*



Southern California Kendo Organization - February 13, 2024 at 06:11 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Koki Ariga.*



February 13, 2024 at 05:34 PM

AF

“ All United States Kendo Federation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

All United States Kendo Federation - February 13, 2024 at 05:29 PM

AF

“ All United States Kendo Federation purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Koki Ariga.



All United States Kendo Federation - February 13, 2024 at 05:29 PM

DB

“ David and Carol Brownell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Koki Ariga.



David and Carol Brownell - February 13, 2024 at 03:59 PM

YP

“ Young park purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Koki Ariga.



Young park - February 13, 2024 at 01:59 PM

YP

“ Young park planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

Young park - February 13, 2024 at 01:59 PM

AD

“ A. Fujimoto from LB Dojo purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Koki Ariga.



A. Fujimoto from LB Dojo - February 12, 2024 at 07:07 PM

JK

“ J. Caroll, K. Umemura, & NY Kenshinkai purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Koki Ariga.



J. Caroll, K. Umemura, & NY Kenshinkai - February 12, 2024 at 05:40 PM

JK

“ J. Caroll, K. Umemura, & NY Kenshinkai planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

J. Caroll, K. Umemura, & NY Kenshinkai - February 12, 2024 at 05:40 PM

VF

“ Veerasammy family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Koki Ariga.



Veerasammy family - February 12, 2024 at 03:43 PM

VF

“ Veerasammy family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

Veerasammy family - February 12, 2024 at 03:43 PM

CF

“ Canadian Kendo Federation. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Koki Ariga.



Canadian Kendo Federation. - February 12, 2024 at 01:12 PM

CF

“ Canadian Kendo Federation. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Koki Ariga.

Canadian Kendo Federation. - February 12, 2024 at 01:12 PM

SK

“ *Shigetaka Kamata purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Koki Ariga.*



Shigetaka Kamata - February 12, 2024 at 11:46 AM