



Dr. Mototsugu M. Morita Jr.

November 20, 1929 - September 9, 2025

Dr Mototsugu M. “Junior” Morita Jr., age 95, passed away peacefully on September 9, 2025, in Chicago, Illinois, surrounded by his beloved family.

Born on November 20, 1929, in Hood River, Oregon, at the base of Mt. Hood, Junior spent his early years in the Pacific Northwest. At age 12, his life was profoundly shaped when he and his family were sent to concentration camps under Executive Order 9066, a result of discrimination against Japanese Americans during World War II. After camp, the family relocated to Chicago, where Junior built his life and lived until his passing.

Junior served honorably in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman, stationed in Japan during the occupation. Upon his return, he attended Northwestern University under the GI Bill and pursued a career in dentistry. As a dentist, he provided for and supported his family with dedication and care.

On August 23, 1959, Junior married the love of his life, Betty K. Morita. Together they shared 66 years of marriage filled with devotion, laughter, and faith. He was a longtime member of Christian Fellowship Church, later Ravenswood Fellowship Church, where he found community and deepened his faith.

In his 50s, Junior discovered a love of singing. Whether at church, the Hood

Avenue block party, or family gatherings (invited or not), his voice became a joyful expression of his spirit. He also found joy in gardening, often inviting neighbors and passersby into the backyard to admire his plants, fishpond, and handiwork.

Junior is survived by his wife, Betty; his children, Mark Morita (Lisa) and their son Jackson, Julie Morita (Bill Trick) and their children Megan and Jake, Paul Morita (Marin), and David Morita. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend whose humor, resilience, and generosity touched all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, November 9, at 2:00 p.m. at Ravenswood Fellowship United Methodist Church. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., and a reception will follow the service in the church gymnasium.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Westminster Place and Unity Hospice for their compassionate care in his final days.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Japanese American Service Committee: <https://jasc-chicago.org/donate/>

Though Junior is no longer here physically, his love and songs live on in the hearts of his family and community.

A zoom link for those who cannot attend in person is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82375149980>; meeting id: 8157 6290 322

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering in Church

NOV 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Ravenswood Fellowship, United Methodist Church
4511 N Hermitage Ave
Chicago, IL 60640
<https://www.ravenswoodfellowshipumc.org/>

Memorial Service

NOV 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Ravenswood Fellowship, United Methodist Church
4511 N Hermitage Ave
Chicago, IL 60640
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Tribute Wall



“ Barr Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Mototsugu M. Morita Jr.



Barr Funeral Home - October 13, 2025 at 05:12 PM

RL

“ I was a patient of Dr. Morita for from the early 70s until his retirement in 2000. I enjoyed our conversations and his stories. His warm, friendly personality made going to the dentist a little easier. He was a great dentist, a great neighbor and a great man. My condolences to his family,
Rosemary J Lambin

Rosemary J Lambin - November 10, 2025 at 12:57 AM

HM

“ When we hear the phrase “Words can’t describe” about something or someone, we suspect there’s something either terrible or wonderful involved. And it is kind of that way with Junior... but with NO terrible and so much wonderful! We will not forget his energy, his cheerful involvement with so many things and people and ideas. He connected both directly and widely ; sharing, engaging, discussing, and then, also, singing! The Morita home was a treasure of warm and wise hospitality where all were welcomed with cheer and kindness, ... a legacy that lives forever. -Helen Murtaugh

Helen Murtaugh - November 07, 2025 at 08:43 PM

JP

“ I was looking for the funeral arrangements for a colleague and came upon this.

I was one of Dr. Morita's very first patients - he had just graduated from dental school - I loved him very much. Over the years I learned something of his family's history and all he/they had lost during the war. For him to have emerged from that nightmare with such a loving nature was remarkable.

My condolences to the family: you do not need to be told what a very special and gentle person he was.

Julia Brown

Julia Jung Brown, PhD, - October 24, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Mototsugu M. Morita Jr..



October 15, 2025 at 11:15 AM

KK

“ Kevin K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Mototsugu M. Morita Jr..

Kevin K. - October 15, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Barr Funeral Home - September 16, 2025 at 11:19 AM