Dr. Wilfred H. Higashi

April 10, 1928 ~ May 19, 2018

Wilfred Hiroto was born on April 10, 1928 in Honolulu, Hawaii to Claire Hisa and Kenneth Kameo Higashimachi. Wilfred attended Iolani High School, and graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1950. From 1951-1952, he served in the U.S. Army with the First Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group in Tokyo during the Korean War. From 1953-1954, Wilfred attended Baylor University and received his M.A. degree in psychology, and from 1955-1958, he attended the University of Denver and obtained his Ph.D. degree in clinical psychology.

From 1958-1962, he was a psychological consultant for the Division of Mental Health, in the Colorado Department of Public Health in Denver; and from 1961-1962 he was the Acting Director of Mental Health in Colorado. From 1962-1969, Wilfred was Chief Psychologist for the Division of Mental Health in the Department of Social Services in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1969, Dr. Higashi was the first psychologist appointed by the governor among the fifty states to be Director of Mental Health, which previously required a psychiatrist to be the director. Then he was appointed Director of Mental Health by Governor Calvin Rampton in 1969, and served as director until 1981. He married Joyce Annette Heine in September 3, 1965, they had two children; April Leilani and Kevin Spencer. Wilfred went into private practice with his wife, and they formed the Holladay Family and Child Guidance Clinic. Dr. Wil Higashi retired from his private practice on April 1, 2009. Since his retirement, he had been teaching Mind-Body Healing classes at the Mount Olympus Senior Center.

Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service on Friday, June 1, 2018 at 2 pm at Larkin Sunset Lawn, 2350 E. 1300 S., SLC. A gathering will be held one hour prior to the service.