Obituary: Henry T. Otsuki

Henry T. Otsuki, retired Oklahoma State Soil Scientist, died in Stillwater, Oklahoma, November 17th, 1999. Mr. Otsuki was born and raised near Denver, Colorado. He graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. in Agronomy. While attending CSU, he was an all-conference baseball pitcher for three years. In 1938, he was selected to the Associated Press all-star baseball team.

Henry married Fusa Tomita on 16 Sept. 1940. In June 1941, he began working for the Soil Conservation Service in Parsons, Kansas. He served in the army in Europe from January 1945 until November 1946. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserves until 1958, where he attained the rank of Captain.

Henry Otsuki was Soil Survey Supervisor and Assistant State Soil Scientist for Kansas until 1959, when he moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, as Soil Correlator for Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1965, he was promoted to State Soil Scientist for Oklahoma. Mr. Otsuki was known for his friendly manner, and positive attitude. He trained many field soil scientists, and inspired many more to do their best work. He was a leader and innovator in Soil Survey during this very dynamic period. Henry was influential in the development of proper soil classification and interpretations of Oklahoma soils.

He is survived by his wife, Fusa; his son, Wayne, of Palo Verdes, California; a daughter, Barbara Thayer, of Wilmington, Delaware; two brothers, Julius and William Otsuki; a sister, Violet Nishimura; and three grandchildren.

Joe D. Nichols
Retired Soil Scientist
3600 Minot
Fort worth, TX 76133
817-292-7233
j1999nic@gateway.net