

Special Ocean Loving Elder Brother Mr. Tomeda Passes

Clint Woods
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For anyone who has ever been to Kodiak or participated in our National Ocean Challenge Program, you likely met or know of Mr. and Mrs. Tomeda.

Today I was informed by Dr. Balcomb and Mr. Randy Francis of the passing of our beloved elder brother Mr. Tomeda.

Without a doubt, he and his wife and family were an inspiration for me and many others. His couple selflessly cared for a property that was often the highlight of National Ocean Challenge Program participants each year. I am personally grateful to have met with him again this year, along with Dr. Kim, Dr. Balcomb and Dr. Jenkins as they, with the heart of elder brothers, took into account his couple's heartfelt perseverance in a somewhat difficult situation. Then Dr. Kim offered loving and special support for he and his family.

I am also thankful that I took the time to express to Mr. Tomeda just how much we all, at NOCP, truly loved him, and appreciated he and his wife's steadfast dedication to caring for the property, a dedication that allowed every youth that came to feel its God given natural beauty.

In final, I include three excerpts or portions of NOCP participants comments about the property at Chiniak that the Tomeda couple took care of for so many years:

“Chiniak was like a Kodiak within Kodiak. The nature in Kodiak is awe inspiring, but I was breathless by the beauty of Chiniak”

“Chiniak is one of the most beautiful locations I have ever visited, and I will never forget it. Our visit felt to short; I only had a little time to explore the beach, the forests, and the cliffs”

“Chiniak is great, I really enjoyed the remoteness and beauty of the area. There is an interesting spirit there that I don't believe can be reproduced elsewhere.”

On behalf of my family, our Montana Family Church, NOCP alumni, staff, and participants for the past eight years, and all of Ocean Providence International, our hearts go out to the Tomeda family during this time to comforted by Heavenly Parent's and True Parent's great love. May Mr. Tomeda's victorious ascension be a bright light for all future Kodiak efforts on behalf of True Parents, the very parents he would testify to each year when I met him. I am sure he will be looking down upon Kodiak along with True Father; with great hopes and love for Kodiak and all of the precious families there.

Until further information becomes available to share via Pastor Deanna Cooper of Kodiak, or others, we offer our sincere condolences and prayers,

Clint & Astrid Woods
Pastors Montana Family Church