



## Irene Luke Chew

May 16, 1920 - April 15, 2020

### IRENE LUKE CHEW

Irene Luke Chew was born May 16, 1920 in Shanghai, China to William Kee Luke of Maui, Hawaii and Grace Yee of Honolulu, Hawaii. Her father was working in China at the time of her birth. She traveled extensively between China and Hawaii in her youth. After graduating from high school she attended Saint John's University in Shanghai (affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania) graduating with a degree in education. She was evacuated from Shanghai in 1949 when President Harry Truman sent ships to evacuate American citizens from China after the communist take over of the country. (It has long been a family joke that she was late for the last boat out of China.) She married William Chew whom she met in Honolulu in Durham, N.C. where he was attending post graduate studies in medicine at Duke University. She moved to Orlando, Florida when William Chew received a position at Florida Sands hospital. She moved to Leesburg in 1957 when William Chew joined the Durham Young Clinic. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian church in Leesburg until 2013 when she moved to University Place in Houston, TX. She passed away from pneumonia one month before her 100 birthday and is laid to rest beside her husband in Hillcrest cemetery, Leesburg.

# Tribute Wall

LA

“ Dearest Mama,

*Thank you for being my caring and loving Mama over the years! Truly enjoyed your elegance, good virtue and great wisdom. When you learned that the country ham is my favorite food, you bought out all the supplies there in your grocery store and made my Xmas holidays very delicious. We could not have asked for a better Mama in our life. You are a lady of high intelligence, sharp mind and beautiful way of saying and doing the right thing. You are a lady of kindness and generosity by always helping the needy and stick to self reliance. You have exhibited a life with dignity, success and the perseverance going through life's up's and down's. Dear Mama, thank you for these long beautiful years in our life and the sweet memories of you will keep us company in years to come! We love you forever! Mama, RIP. May God bless us on earth and Heaven!*

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**Les & Alice** - April 30, 2020 at 07:20 PM

NH

“ Dear Lisa, So sorry to hear the news. Mrs. Chew was so close to 100. What lovely lady Mrs Chew was to me.

*Take care*

*Natalie Shoop Hicks*

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**Natalie Hicks** - April 27, 2020 at 06:22 PM