The Japanese American Museum of Oregon is deeply saddened by the passing of Holly Yasui on Sunday, October 31st. We send heartfelt condolences to the entire Yasui family and community.

Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Executive Director, stated, “This is such a terrible loss. She brought such dedication and passion to everything she did. Our time together and work we shared will be cherished and we are devoted to continue uplifting and sharing the legacy of Minoru Yasui, and now Holly.”

This work endures under the auspices of the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project. Minoru Yasui is the only Oregonian to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, given to him posthumously by President Obama in 2015. His nomination was spearheaded by the Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee, cofounded by Holly Yasui and Peggy Nagae. Also, under the Tribute Project, Holly produced a documentary film, “Never Give Up: Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice” (2018). Holly’s work spans decades, and she will be remembered for her tenacious spirit, her willingness to work tirelessly for justice, and her creative spark.

Holly and her father’s legacy will continue to live on through Min’s historic jail cell that has been preserved and moved to become the centerpiece of the new museum. Had it not been for Holly’s tenacity and spirit of never giving up, this historic artifact would not have been discovered. As such, there will be a special dedication of his cell in her honor on Minoru Yasui Day of next year, March 28, 2022.

Holly’s sisters, Iris Moinat (Denver, CO) and Laurie Yasui (Kansas City, MO), ask that remembrances and donations be sent to:

The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project at www.minoruyasuilegacy.org

Or mail donations to:
Japanese American Museum of Oregon (with the notation MYLP)
411 NW Flanders St Ste 100
Portland, OR 97209