

Obituary: Walter Kato

Walter Kato, who joined BNL's Department of Applied Science in 1976 as Associate Chairman for Reactor Safety and rose to chair the Department of Nuclear Energy, died on November 29, 2014. When he retired on July 11, 1997, Dr. Kato had been DNE Chairman for nine of his 21 years at BNL. He was 90 years old and lived in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

The following obituary was published in *The Wellesley Townsman*, Dec. 23-30, 2014.

Walter Kato, Ph. D Walter Yoneo Kato, Ph. D., of Northridge, California, formerly of Seattle WA, Naperville IL, Port Jefferson NY and Wellesley MA, passed away November 29, 2014.

The son of Naotaro and Hideko Kondo Kato of Japan, Dr. Kato was born in Chicago, IL on August 19, 1924 and then moved to Seattle. Due to executive order 9066, on May 1st, 1942, Dr. Kato and his family were relocated to the Puyallup Fair Grounds Assembly Center and then the Minidoka Relocation Center. Thanks to the National Student Relocation Council, Dr. Kato received a scholarship to attend Haverford College. He graduated in 1946 with a BS in physics and then was drafted into the Army to serve at Fort Bliss.



Walter Kato

Dr. Kato received a MS in physics from University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in physics from Penn State University. He worked at Argonne National Laboratory specializing in nuclear reactor safeguards. While there, he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. In 1973, having won the Argonne Distinguished Appointment award, Dr. Kato became a visiting professor in the Nuclear Engineering Department at the University of Michigan.

From 1976-1997, Dr. Kato went to Brookhaven National Laboratory and rose to become the Chairman of the Department of Nuclear Energy.

In 1993, he was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure with Gold Rays by the Japanese Government for his work. In his retirement in Massachusetts, Dr. Kato was a Research Associate at the MIT Nuclear Science and Engineering Department in Cambridge, MA until 2012. Surviving are his: wife, Anna Kurata Kato of Gardena, CA; son, Norman (wife Nancy Douts Kato) of Los Angeles, CA; daughters, K.C. (husband Daryl Lapp) of Wellesley, MA and Barbara (husband Dan Raftery) of Marlton, NJ; 5 grandchildren; sisters, Betty Morita of Chicago, IL and Dorry Hosoda of Honolulu, HI. Funeral services were held in Chatsworth, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made either to the Community Care Fund, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, 16830 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 315, Encino, CA 91436 or the Nisei Scholarship at Haverford College, 370 Lancaster Ave., Haverford, PA 19041.

Dr. Kato first came to the Lab in 1952, as a student from Pennsylvania State University, to work on his graduate thesis. He returned to BNL in 1975, and, in January 23, 1980, he delivered the 170th Brookhaven Lecture on "Lessons Learned from Three Mile Island."