

Clifton Truman Daniel
Encountering Hiroshima

Objective: To inform the audience about my encounters with Hiroshima, and how learning about the experience of victims helped me to engage in peace work and the thinking that it requires.



Sadako Sasaki: 1943-2955



A paper crane



Left: Masahiro Sasaki (Sadako's older brother)
Right: Yuji Sasaki (Masahiro's son)



PART I: Early years

Hiroshima/Nagasaki rarely discussed. Did not even know my grandad was president until ...

PART II: Adult Education: Learning about Sadako Sasaki

1994 – Meet a young woman whose grandfather died in Hiroshima.

1999 – Wesley (son) comes home with Eleanor Coerr's *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* and knowledge of Japanese culture (thanks to teacher Rosemary Barilla).

2004- Story in Japanese newspaper, Masahiro Sasaki, Sadako's older brother, reaches out. "Let's meet."

2010 – Meet at 9/11 Tribute Center. Yuji Sasaki (Sadako's nephew) gives me Sadako's last paper crane.

2011 – Listened, causing me to encounter a different narrative from Hibakusha (Setsuko Thurlow), the position that the A bomb was not necessary to win the war.

2012 – Peace ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, meetings with more than two dozen hibakusha, Yuji Sasaki donates a crane to USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor

PART III: Engaging with Peace Work: How the encounter with victims affects the programming at the Truman library, and my ongoing activity with “Flame of Hope”

2013 – Listened and recorded survivor testimony with my son, Wesley.

2014 – I begin four years of working with survivors via nonprofit Hibakusha Stories, talking to NY high schoolers about the danger of nuclear weapons.

2015 – Crane donated to Truman library.

2024 - Flame of Hope/Hope 80 representatives visit the Truman Library to present their program and have descendants of Roosevelt, Grant, Monroe, Johnson, McKinley and Cleveland put their wishes into the flame.

2025 - Travel Japan for two weeks with Hope 80, descendants of Tojo, Amon Goth, Gandhi and Holocaust survivors.

2026 - Pearl Harbor Ceremony with Masahiro and Yuji Sasaki, Akie Abe (former prime minister Shinzo Abe’s widow) and Hidetoshi Tojo (great-grandson of Japan’s wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo)

Historic Reunion Honours Hiroshima’s Tragedy, Resilience, and Hope

Updated: Sep 16, 2025



Clifton Truman Daniel and Hidetoshi Tojo lay a wreath to honour the victims of the Hiroshima atomic bombing.



The HOPE80 delegates honour the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.



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NEWS RELEASES

PUBLIC PROGRAM AND CEREMONIAL DONATION OF ORIGINAL ORIGAMI CRANE FOLDED BY SADAKO SASAKI | November 19, 2015



Seventy years after the end of World War II, the Sadako Legacy organization will donate one of Sadako Sasaki's original origami cranes to the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum on December 19, 2015.

Diagnosed with leukemia due to radiation exposure from the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Sadako Sasaki (left) began folding paper cranes in her hospital bed. According to a Japanese legend, if a person folds 1,000 paper cranes, that person is granted one wish. Although she died in 1955, her cranes have come to symbolize world peace and reconciliation.

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