

Good morning, everyone.

Today, we gather to remember and celebrate the life of Koshu Kawahara, a member of Cosolargy International and a remarkable individual whose spirit and creativity touched the lives of all who knew him.

Koshu was born on July 23, 1941, in Fukuoka, Japan, and his journey on this Earth came to an end on March 20, 2024, at the age of 82. His real name was Masayoshi Kawahara, but we called him “Koshu” as his artist’s name. Koshu means “outstanding Light bearer.”

Koshu was more than just a name. He was an oil painting artist whose brush strokes captured the beauty and essence of life itself. He had a passion for painting since his school days. While working at a local civic office, he entered one of his paintings in an art contest and won a Gold Award. This success inspired him to become a professional artist. His artwork reflected not only his talent, but also his deep appreciation for the world around him. He endeavored to capture the beauty of light in his paintings.

One of the most unforgettable chapters of Koshu's life was his sailing adventure with Gene Savoy Sr. from Hawaii to Australia aboard the Feathered Serpent 3 in August 1998. Despite the harrowing experience of the ship sinking, Koshu's indomitable spirit and resilience shone through. I remember his words during the shipwreck, when the waves were hitting us. He said, "I can't swim." I responded, "Don't say that now, Koshu! Just hang on! Hang on!" He and six other sailors, including myself, were saved by a Chinese cargo ship bound for Japan, and we were brought safely to land at Kashima, near Tokyo.

We vividly remember arriving at port Kashima during a fireworks display in the night sky. Two typhoons were wandering around Japan at that time, causing very high waves, so we had to wait a few days to land. This coincided with the legendary day when the seven wise sailors, or “Hichi Fuku Jin,” arrived at Kashima in ancient Japan, educating the people and teaching them living skills and culture. What a coincidence!

This challenging experience was a testament to Koshu's strength and courage in the face of adversity. It was a journey that not only tested his physical endurance but also forged deep bonds of Cosolargy comradeship among the sailors who shared that remarkable escape.

Beyond his adventures at sea, Koshu leaves behind a legacy of creativity, passion, and kindness. His artwork will continue to inspire and bring joy to all who behold it, just as his presence brought warmth and light into the lives of those fortunate enough to know him.

Towards the end of his life, he fought bravely against failing physical and mental strength. He was a pioneer of our mission in Japan and a major contributor to our Community, both financially and physically. We must say, “Thank you for your

generosity, Koshu.”

He was the first to join the Cosolargy Community in Japan and worked diligently to receive the “Ship of Light” in Japan, collaborating with public and private sponsors month after month, although it did not materialize as planned. In some mysterious way, however, the “Ship of Light” did achieve to come to Japan on a Divine Schedule.

We must also mention his wife, Reiko, who worked hard to receive us in Kashima. She is not a Community member, but without her generous and kind support for her husband and our work, our efforts might have ended in a bitter experience. “From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your great support, Reiko-san.”

As we bid farewell to Koshu Kawahara, let us take comfort in the knowledge that his Spirit lives on in the Sun and in the memories we hold dear. May his paintings continue to whisper of the beauty he saw in the world, and may his legacy endure as a beacon of hope and inspiration for generations to come.

Rest in peace, dear Koshu. Help us from the Land of Light in our work on Earth. You will be deeply missed, but your Spirit will always remain in our hearts and in the Sun. Thank you.