SHONIE AKI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Shonie Aki, a remarkable individual, great father, tireless worker and volunteer as well as a great friend to many, had a long history in table tennis. He was both a star player and a great organizer and trainer. Shonie began his successful playing career in 1959, and was among the top-ranked U.S. players for many years. He was the California State Champion three times and was the founder and organizer of table tennis clubs in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Berkeley. He successfully organized and ran many tournaments and events sponsored by the USTAA starting in 1960. Shonie became the President of the California Table Tennis Association in 1961 and was the Vice President of the USTTA Executive Committee from 1988 through 1999. He became one of the first inductees to the California Table Tennis Hall of Fame and later became an inductee to the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame.

In 1963, he received the prestigious Barna Award for his contributions to the sport. Shonie’s love of table tennis, his easy going style and outstanding personality helped so many young and upcoming players develop their game and become high ranked competitors.

Shonie was a generous, hardworking and resourceful man who was at peace with himself, always with a positive energy; people who met him thought they had met him before. Always supportive, kind and thoughtful, he made many friends in and outside of the table tennis world.

The Shonie Aki Scholarship award, in the amount of $1,250 for one year, will be offered to a young table tennis player who has aspirations to complete a college education, become a better player and a productive individual who would reflect on Shonie’s legacy. In order to be considered to receive this scholarship award, candidates must be expecting to attend college in 2015 (and have at least two years remaining to complete their degree) and have GPAs at least B or better. Please provide a copy of your current transcript (high school plus any college), a summary of your involvement with table tennis and the community, and a paragraph describing something you find interesting or admirable about Shonie (total for both topics of two typed pages or less) and send them to Imbinay@comcast.net no later than November 1, 2014.

April 14, 2014