

Flame of Peace ( For Akihiro Takahashi)

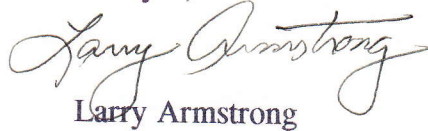
On a clear August 6th, in a schoolyard with my friends  
Then a tremendous flash and roar; can my life be at end?  
Blown 10 meters<sup>1</sup> back and as I awake in a bad dream  
Everything I see, makes me tremble and scream.

A procession of ghosts with clothes and skin in shreds  
Darkness, confusion and babies without heads.  
To run for the river as my teacher said to do  
A living hell on earth, in every direction that I view.

Forty-eight years later and I think of the pain  
In a school of 60 boys; 47 died in vain.  
To their memories, I dedicate myself, to remember their cries  
To light the flame of peace, in unaware eyes.

To base the concept of peace, on weapons of war  
Eventually, the earth, will exist no more!

July 3, 1993



Larry Armstrong

<sup>1</sup> 10 meters is 32.81 feet

# *Larry Armstrong*

**For Michiko Yamaoka**

At Hiroshima Peace Museum, in August 1991

Next to the map of the city, showing devastation that was done.

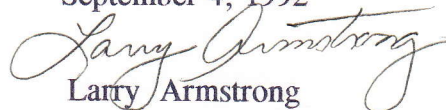
I noticed a woman, who I had read about for years  
Her story of her survival, brought compassion and tears.

My meeting her was fate, so I could understand her pain  
For education of children, is what she hopes to gain.  
To every word of her story, I listened with my soul  
To become a delegate of her truth, is my life-long goal.

Amidst monuments in the park, she gestured with her hands  
Her memories of people's suffering, she wanted us to understand.  
Badly disfigured herself, many operations through the years  
By knowing the after effects of Atomic Weapons, let's avoid future tears.

Michiko Yamaoka, lost her youth that fateful day  
But her spirit and integrity, gives her so much to say!

September 4, 1992

  
Larry Armstrong

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## **Sadako Sasaki Wings of Peace**

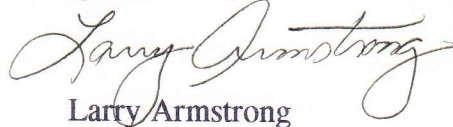
A mere child of two, in Hiroshima, August 6, 1945  
For only ten years more, did Sadako Sasaki survive.  
Diagnosed with leukemia, effects from the Atomic blast  
Our goal is to educate others, from the decisions of the past.

To fold 1000 paper cranes, the legend says, protects you from disease  
Dying after 644, her classmates; folded the rest of these.  
To write peace upon these wings and fly above the earth  
A world with no more war, will prove our very worth.

Her will to survive and the cranes that she made  
Are a symbol of peace for a non-atomic crusade.  
In a rainbow of colors, the park honors her name  
For as City of Peace; Hiroshima proclaims!

Atop a monument of stone, a golden crane in her hands  
To all children of the bomb; Sadako proudly stands!

September 13, 1992



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## **GOODWILL and PEACE**

The 21st Century lies, only 7 years away  
Our hopes for a peaceful world, embraces each waking day.  
To reach out to the less fortunate and extend them our hands  
Our countries are so wealthy; yet many perish in these lands.

Take joy in your life and leave anger behind  
To be loved by other people is the ultimate design.  
Friends, family and memories; are 3 parts of the whole  
No one can ever take away, the magic of your soul.

To paraphrase Helen Keller; no time to think about, what has been denied  
For so much has been given; the world did provide.  
Think less of yourself and more for those in need  
A world with more understanding, is a better one indeed.

December 10, 1992



**Larry Armstrong**

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