

ORIZURU

Orizuru are origami paper cranes. In Japan, there is a legend about paper cranes. Cranes are said to live for a thousand years. It is said that if you fold a paper crane for every year a crane can live, your wish will come true.

Worldwide, there is one girl who was known for her paper cranes and her name was Sadako Sasaki.

On August 6th, 1945 an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

Sadako Sasaki was one girl who survived the bombing. She went to the hospital when she was 12 years old where it was found that she had leukemia. After she received some paper cranes from a school club in Nagoya and heard the legend from her father, Sadako began to make 1000 paper cranes. Her wish to get better did not come true but she continued to make them for others. Sadako passed away within a year after she entered the hospital.

Her friends wanted to honor all the children who died from the effects of the bomb and the Children's Peace Monument was created. The girl in the statue was made to look like Sadako and she holds a gold paper crane. On the plaque it says "This is our city. This is our prayer. Peace in the world."

Today, paper cranes symbolize a hope for peace.

After the attacks on the World Trade Center occurred on September 11th, Sadako's brother brought one of Sadako's original paper cranes to the site to honor the people that died.

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