

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City (72) September 23rd, 2016 Issue

【An old lady with wonderful smile】

Hello, I'm Mr. Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

On Respect-for-Senior-Citizens Day of September 19th, I visited Mrs. Tsuyako Fujiwara who lives in Saidaiji, Higashi ward to celebrate her long life.

Mrs. Fujiwara was born in Meiji 45th and now is 104 years old. I researched about that year and it was in the middle of the second Saionji Cabinet when many incidents occurred that led to Taisho Democracy. I learned it on the history book. Mr. Taro Okamoto, an artist, and Mr. Reagan, a former President of the United States, were the same generation of hers.

I was wondering how this 104-year-old lady who went through the long history is doing. When I actually met her, it was very impressive that she was very bright and lively and spoke clearly. We talked about the Olympics, sumo (she is a fan of Kisenosato), a morning drama on NHK while she was surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and Toya, a 9-month-old great-great-grandchild, was on her lap. I was surprised that she folds every family member's laundry every day and more surprising than that, she does not take any medicine. I asked her what she eats every day and she told me that she likes meat but also eats vegetables.

She enjoys nothing better than watching Toya's growth and told me with a wonderful smile that she is happiest right now. I keenly felt that I wish I could be like her when I become older.

Okayama City is a long-lived society which holds about 370 people who are over 100 years old including Mrs. Fujiwara. Taking this opportunity, I renew a sense of gratitude for the elderly and hope they live healthy and longer.

※From 2012, the former mayor had abolished the program to visit “golden agers”. However, I have restarted it by putting not too much budget on it because I would like to celebrate their longevity.