Ryo Imamura was born in the Gila internment camp (Butte)in Arizona in 1944, and is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Kanmo Imamura.

His late father was the resident minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple from 1941 until 1958, founder of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, founder of the Buddhist Study Center in Hawaii, and served as the Bishop of the Hawaii Kyodan from 1967-74. Ryo, in fact, descended from a long familial line of prominent Buddhist luminaries.

Ryo received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley, a Master's degree in Counseling from the San Francisco State University, and a Doctorate degree in Counseling/Educational Psychology from the University of San Francisco.

At the age of 28 in Japan in 1972,he received the major ministerial ordinations, the first American-born, native English-speaking young priest to do so, after which he was a minister in Hawaii, one of 12 priests serving 10,000 members under the leadership of his Bishop father. Despite his renown, Ryo remained humble throughout his life.

Ryo he served as the first director of the Buddhist Study Center in Honolulu from 1972-76, and later served in Buddhist Churches of America for 21 years. He was also a licensed psychotherapist in California and co-founder of the East-West Counseling Center in Berkeley and Oakland, California. He was also a past national president of the American Buddhist Peace Fellowship and a national board member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, which is the country’s oldest and largest international religious peace and justice organization.

In 1988 Ryo moved to Washington with wife Tery to assume a university professorship. He retired in 2014 as an emeritus professor of Counseling Psychology from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. The focus of his teaching and research was East-West Psychology with an emphasis on Buddhist thought and practice. His writings have appeared in various books and publications. He also has provided Buddhist consultations on issues of living and dying to the general community.

He and Tery then relocated to Toronto, Ontario much to the good fortune of Don Heights Unitarian Congregation, where they became active and valued members.

Ryo presented a five-segment series on Buddhist thought and practices, all viewable on YouTube via the links below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53TPnGe2CTY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Njpkwrji2m8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JqY4Rp_X_4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS5CX1jDkqg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUWywnb1-FY>

Ryo died peacefully at home on December 14, but most unexpectedly as he had just received a positive health report from his doctor.

He is survived Tery and two sons, Michi and Kaya.