

Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2019: Summary of Contributions

Kaz Maniwa

Senior Vice President, U.S.-Japan Council

Mr. Kaz Maniwa is among the first alumni of the Japanese American Leadership Program (JALD) sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as a participant in the inaugural program in 2000. He has made a strong commitment to enhancing exchanges between Japan and the United States of America through the JALD program, which he continues to be actively involved in. He also plays an important role in promoting Japan-United States relations formerly as a Board member and currently as Senior Vice President of the U.S.-Japan Council.

Janice Mirikitani

Co-Founder, GLIDE Foundation

Ms. Janice Mirikitani has made significant contributions to improve the status of Japan and Japanese Americans in the United States of America. As a community activist, Ms. Janice Mirikitani, with her husband, Reverend Cecil Williams, co-founded GLIDE Foundation to help and empower San Francisco's poor and marginalized communities. Ms. Mirikitani has also played a leading role in the arts-poetry in particular. She is San Francisco's second Poet Laureate and served as a commissioner on the San Francisco Arts Commission from 1996 to 2008.

Joan Suzuki

Director Emeritus, Sogetsu San Francisco Bay Area Branch

Ms. Joan Suzuki has been a teacher of Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) for over 60 years. She served as President of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana's San Francisco Bay Area Branch for six years, leading exhibitions, lectures, and demonstrations. Her activities have contributed to mutual understanding between Japan and California, and the spread of Japanese culture through Ikebana. Additionally, she has served as a past president of the Ikebana Teachers' Federation and as the Sogetsu school advisor for Ikebana International's San Francisco Bay Area Branch, further contributing to the development of Ikebana in Northern California

Donald K. Tamaki

President, Board of Directors, San Francisco Japantown Foundation

As President of the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Japantown Foundation since its founding in 2006, Mr. Donald K. Tamaki has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Japanese culture in San Francisco. Mr. Tamaki has also made a tremendous contribution to improving the status of Japanese Americans in the United States of America as a member of the pro bono team that reopened and overturned Fred Korematsu's criminal conviction in the landmark Supreme Court case of *Korematsu v. the United States*.

San Mateo Nippon Gakuyen

San Mateo Nippon Gakuyen is a Japanese language school founded in 1919 by first generation Japanese immigrants. In a period when Japanese education in the region was still developing, San Mateo Nippon Gakuyen made great contributions to the language education of second generation Japanese descendants. Currently, the school teaches Japanese language and culture to its students who range from kindergarten to high school, and come from households of both Japanese and non-Japanese descent. The school also holds Japanese cultural events throughout the year, promoting understanding of Japan and Japanese language to the next generation of learners.