

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

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Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2020: Summary of Contributions

Mr. Stephen T. Quigley, Jr. previously served as Chair of Sister Cities International (SCI) and currently serves as President of the Sister Cities International Foundation. He has played an important role in promoting mutual understanding and developing sister city relationships between Japan and the U.S., including his initiative to hold the Japan-Texas Leadership Symposium hosted by SCI in 2019. Furthermore, he has also contributed locally to support and enhance the sister city relationship between Okayama and San Jose.

Ms. Ezilda Samoville helped establish a California-Japan legislative exchange program, opening the door for constant dialogue and rapport among elected officials from Japan and California. Thanks to her initiative, the program has continued for over 20 years and brought more than 50 legislators to Japan over 18 trips. She has also played an important role in hosting countless delegations from Japan. Her dedication has helped promote the mutual understanding and friendship between the elected officials of Japan and California.

Mr. Brian Yoshiaki Shiroyama has made tremendous contributions to the preservation of Japanese American history and the promotion of understanding of Japan through the creation of the Japanese American History/Nisei Veterans' Exhibit aboard the USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum in Alameda, California. Mr. Shiroyama also regularly promoted Japanese culture as co-organizer of the Morgan Hill Haru Matsuri, which has a 60-year history. Furthermore, Mr. Shiroyama has made a strong commitment to facilitating mutual understanding and enhancing exchanges between Japan and the United States of America by establishing a foundation that resulted in the formulation of the Mizuho Town (Tokyo)-Morgan Hill sister city relationship and subsequently serving as Chairperson for Morgan Hill's sister city program.

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco was established in 1966 with the donation of a sizable collection of Asian art which included Japanese ceramics, paintings, and ukiyo-e prints by former International Olympic Committee Chairman Avery Brundage. Since its opening, the Museum has held a large number of special exhibitions related to Japan featuring works of Japanese art ranging from ancient to contemporary. With its numerous exhibitions and year-round Japan-related public programs, the Asian Art Museum continues to promote understanding of Japanese art and culture to the people of Northern California and beyond.