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THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC'S

**37<sup>th</sup> US-JAPAN  
CAPITAL GALA**

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023



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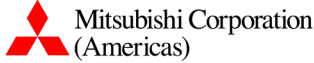
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**37TH US-JAPAN CAPITAL GALA**

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# PROGRAM

- 5:30 || Silent Auction & Reception Begins
- 7:00 || Call to Dinner  
MARK H. TAIKO
- 7:20 || Opening Remarks  
MR. RYAN SHAFFER, PRESIDENT, JASWDC  
MR. RANDY YOSHIMURA (SUMITOMO), VICE-CHAIR, JASWDC  
MS. MARIE KISSEL, 37TH US-JAPAN CAPITAL GALA CO-CHAIR
- 7:35 || Opening Toast  
HIS EXCELLENCY KOJI TOMITA, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY & PLENIPOTENTIARY OF JAPAN TO THE USA
- 7:45 || Dinner Served
- 8:15 || Chairman's Remarks  
AMBASSADOR JAMES P. ZUMWALT, CHAIRMAN, JASWDC
- 8:20 || Presentation of Awards
- 8:25 || John & Hiroko Malott Leadership Award  
*Presented by JASWDC Former President Ambassador John Malott*  
MS. COLETTE H. FOZARD  
J. LIVE TALK, REP. BY DR. TAKAE TSUJIOKA
- 8:40 || Marshall Green Award  
*Presented by behalf of JASWDC by U.S. Senator Angus King*  
MR. MASANORI "MASHI" MURAKAMI
- 9:00 || Silent Auction Closes
- 9:10 || Closing Toast  
UNITED STATES SENATOR BILL HAGERTY
- 9:30 || Gala Concludes

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Mami Takeuchi (Scholarship Recipient of 2015): Junka

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Thinking of one, of all.  Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)



*Greetings from*

# THE CAPITAL GALA CHAIRS

DEAR GUESTS OF JASWDC'S 37TH US-JAPAN CAPITAL GALA,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Japan-America Society of Washington DC's 37th annual US-Japan Capital Gala. This Gala is a celebrated annual ritual in the Nation's Capital, convening policy, business, and civil society leaders of the United States' treasured relationship with Japan. This year's Gala shines the spotlight on US-Japan civil society ties, and one particularly important pillar thereof: baseball.

151 years ago, baseball was introduced to Japan by an American teacher from Maine. Today, Japan produces some of the best baseball players in the world, some of whom are now the stars of Major League teams. Meanwhile, to date more than 600 American pros have gone the other way, to play in the Nippon Professional Baseball League (NPB). Today Japanese players serve as idols to America kids, as do American players to Japanese kids. Baseball provides to this bilateral relationship a common language that we otherwise lack.

We are thrilled to be awarding our annual Marshall Green Award to Masanori "Mashi" Murakami, who was the first from Japan to blaze this trail, becoming the first Japanese player to play in the majors, and perform with distinction for the San Francisco Giants in the 1960's. Mr. Murakami opened the door to more Japanese greats to follow, including Nomo, Ichiro, Matsui, Ohtani, and many others. Also with us tonight is NPB legend Tuffy Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes is perhaps the most recognized American player in Japan, having tied the great Sadaharu Oh for the single season home run record, and for holding the most home runs of any foreigner to have played in Japan. Simply put, the work of all-stars like Mashi Murakami and Tuffy Rhodes enriches and simplifies the work of the many US-Japan business and policy all-stars at the head table and around the room tonight.

Your presence here tonight helps the Society honor the important legacies of Mr. Murakami and Mr. Rhodes, as well as some of the US-Japan MVPs from our National Capital Region community, including John and Hiroko Leadership Award winners, Colette H. Fozard and J.LIVE Talk. Through your ticket purchases, your bids in the silent auction, and your donations - you also provide critical support to the Japan-America Society of Washington DC, and our year-round work in the community and throughout the country through our annual National Japan Bowl, our Tanaka & Green scholarships, and our many partnerships and cultural events. We can only do this おかげさまで (thanks to you).

We thank you for joining tonight's Gala, and for your support, collaboration, and shared advocacy for the relationship between the United States and Japan.

*Marie Kissel*

VP, Global Government Affairs  
Abbott

*Tami Overby*

President  
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# RYAN SHAFFER

PRESIDENT, JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY  
OF WASHINGTON DC

*Speaker*

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Ryan Shaffer has served as President of Japan America Society of Washington DC since February, 2019. He has broad oversight over the Society's programs and activities, including the largest Japanese cultural festival in the United States (Washington, D.C.'s Sakura Matsuri-Japanese Street Festival) and the United States' national Japanese language and culture competition (the National Japan Bowl).

Mr. Shaffer previously served as Director of Programs and Development at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, where he developed and managed Foundation programs, including over thirty workshops in Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, the E.U., and throughout the U.S. Major programs under Mr. Shaffer's leadership included the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group and Regulatory Oversight Workshop and the U.S.-Japan Space Forum. Mr. Shaffer is the editor of several Foundation publications and has authored a variety of articles examining the post-Fukushima nuclear energy situation in Japan.

Prior to joining the Mansfield Foundation, Mr. Shaffer served as a research analyst for the Washington office of the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan. Mr. Shaffer, who was raised in Portland, Maine, has an MSc in Asian politics from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies and a BS in environmental policy from Bates College. Mr. Shaffer sits on the Board of Directors of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and serves as President of the Board of the Western Pacific Fellowship Project.



**JRFFPA**

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The Japan-America Society of Washington DC  
thanks the Japan Retired Foreign Players Association  
for their generous support to our 37th Capital Gala

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# RANDY YOSHIMURA

SVP & WASHINGTON OFFICE GENERAL  
MANAGER, SUMITOMO CORPORATION  
OF AMERICAS

*Speaker*

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SVP & Washington Office General Manager, Sumitomo Corporation of Americas

Since joining Sumitomo in 1987, Ryota Yoshimura worked in the aerospace & defense business area for the first twenty years of his professional career. During this time, he was responsible for marketing, business development, project management, and contracting with Japan's Ministry of Defense and the defense industry. He was posted at SCOA's New York Office from 1994 to 2000 in this capacity.

On April 1, 2020, Mr. Yoshimura was appointed SVP & GM of Sumitomo Corporation of Americas (SCOA) Washington Office for the second time.

Mr. Yoshimura is a graduate of University of Tokyo, with a BA in liberal arts, majoring in human geography and sub-majoring in American studies. During his childhood, he lived in New York (1968-1971) and in Washington DC (1974-1977) with his family.

Mr. Yoshimura serves as President of the Japan Commerce Association of Washington, DC and a Vice-Chair of Japan-America Society of Washington DC.





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HIS EXCELLENCY

# TOMITA KOJI

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY &  
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF JAPAN TO THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Speaker*



On February 17, 2021, President Joseph Biden received Ambassador Tomita's Letter of Credence acknowledging him as Japan's Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Tomita's diplomatic career in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) spans 40 years.

Most recently, he served as Japan's Ambassador to Korea, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Personal Representative for the G20 Summit in Osaka, and Ambassador to Israel. His other overseas postings have included London and Paris.

Apart from his overseas duties, his primary professional focus has been on security policy, having been actively involved in the policy and legislative reviews that the Japanese Government undertook in the area in recent years, including Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security, which has increased Japan's deterrence.

His relationship with the United States began when he studied in North Carolina for a year in college. Since he entered MOFA, he has also held leadership positions in US-Japan relations, including Director-General of MOFA's North American Affairs Bureau and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC. In these capacities, he led the Japanese efforts to strengthen the Japan-US alliance and to promote mutual understanding between the two nations. He was also responsible for preparing Prime Minister Abe's highly successful official visit to the United States in 2015.

Ambassador Tomita writes in his spare time and has published two books (in Japanese): *Churchill: Leadership in Crisis* and *Margaret Thatcher: Iron Lady Who Changed Politics*. The latter won the Yamamoto Shichihei Award.

Ambassador Tomita graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law and joined Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1981. He is married to Noriko, and they have two daughters and a son.

*the 32nd national*

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# ABOUT JASWDC

## CONNECT TO JAPAN

Drawing on the unique resources of the nation's capital and our long history, the JASWDC promotes friendship and understanding between Americans and Japanese through diverse programming that spans the educational, cultural, business, and policy spheres.

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### OUR VISION

A world in which Americans and Japanese of every generation value and contribute to the U.S.-Japan relationship. JASWDC will be a driving force in forging close ties between our two peoples. We will be the most comprehensive, visible, trusted, and accessible resource in the DC area, and your bridge to Japan.

### OUR MISSION

From our local schools to our top political leaders, we support the US-Japan relationship through programs and partnerships that unite Americans around a shared interest in Japan's vibrant culture.

### ABOUT THE GALA

The Society's US-Japan Capital Gala and Silent Auction, usually held in the fall, is one of the Society's signature national programs. Over the years the Gala has welcomed and honored some of America's and Japan's most distinguished leaders.

The Gala and Silent Auction are a primary source of support for the Japan-America Society's many educational and cultural activities, which introduce Japan and Japanese culture to the residents of the Nation's Capital Region.



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY  
OF WASHINGTON DC





**Hitachi is proud to support the Japan-America Society of Washington DC's 37th U.S.-Japan Capital Gala.**

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# MARIE KISSEL

VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
ABBOTT

*Speaker*

Based in Washington, DC, Marie Kissel serves as Senior Advisor, Government Affairs, at Abbott, a global healthcare leader in diagnostics, medical devices, nutrition and branded generic pharmaceuticals, which helps people live their best life through the power of health. Ms. Kissel was based in Tokyo and led government affairs activities in Asia for Abbott 2013-2020, as VP, Asia Government Affairs and as Senior Advisor. Prior to Abbott she was VP, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Asia Pacific, for Baxter International, based in Shanghai (2006 to 2013). Ms. Kissel has also held various government affairs and trade policy roles in the automotive industry, primarily with DaimlerChrysler, in Washington, DC, and Singapore. She started her career at the US Department of Commerce in the International Trade Administration's Office of Antidumping Investigations, followed by the Office of Japan.

Ms. Kissel is a Board Member of the National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) and the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC, and is Chair of AdvaMed's Japan Reimbursement Working Group. In April 2018 she was elected Chairman of the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC), an association of 28 American Chambers of Commerce throughout the Indo-Pacific region, which represent more than 15,000 companies, 50,000 overseas American employees, and over US\$700 billion in annual trade and investment in the region.

Ms. Kissel attended Sophia University's Year-in-Japan Program as an undergraduate and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government/International Affairs and Japanese Language from University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA, and Master of Business Administration from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University, USA. She is a native of Princeton, Indiana, USA.

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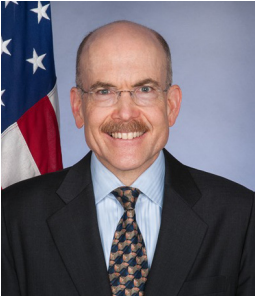
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**AUCTION CLOSES AT 9:00 EST**

AMBASSADOR

# JAMES P. ZUMWALT

CHAIRMAN, JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
OF WASHINGTON DC



*Speaker*

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Ambassador James Zumwalt serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA from February 2017 until his retirement from the position in August of 2019. Prior to that role, Ambassador Zumwalt was the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Guinea Bissau from 2015 to January 2017.

Previously he was responsible for policy toward Japan and Korea as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia Affairs.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami struck Japan in 2011, Ambassador Zumwalt was serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, where he coordinated the United States' support for the Japanese Government's response to that crisis.

During his 36-year Foreign Service career, Ambassador Zumwalt has served in a variety of assignments with a focus on Asia and international economics in Washington, Tokyo, Beijing, Kinshasa, Dakar, and Bissau. In Washington, D.C., Ambassador Zumwalt worked in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and also at the United States Trade Representative's Office. He also worked in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Japan, Korea, and Philippine desks. Jim speaks Japanese and French and some Chinese.

Ambassador Zumwalt received a master's degree in International Security Studies from the National War College in 1998 and a Bachelor of Arts in American History and also in Japanese Language from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979. He is from El Cajon, California and is married to Ann Kambara, a retired Foreign Service Officer who is now pursuing a second career in Social Work.

# THE JOHN & HIROKO MALOTT LEADERSHIP AWARD

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The John and Hiroko Malott Leadership Award is presented annually by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC to an individual or a group that is making a significant contribution to the future of US-Japan relations by increasing mutual understanding and cooperation between the next generation of Americans and Japanese. The Society is honored to recognize the recipients and is confident that their efforts will continue to enhance our relationship in the years to come.



AMBASSADOR

**JOHN R.  
MALOTT**

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*Presenters*

Ambassador John R. Malott's career in the US Foreign Service focused on Asia. He served as Ambassador to Malaysia; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia; and Consul General in Osaka, among other positions. He later served for twelve years as President of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. In 2017 the Emperor of Japan awarded Amb. Malott the Order of the Rising Sun for his many contributions to US-Japan relations for almost five decades. Hiroko Iwami Malott, who passed away in 2012, was passionate in encouraging and supporting younger Japanese women to achieve what her generation could not. Together, John and Hiroko worked to encourage the "next generation" of Americans and Japanese to treasure and advance the relationship between our two great countries, just as they had.



# J.LIVE TALK

REPRESENTED BY  
DR. TAKAE TSUJIOKA

*Award Recipient*

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## **2023 GROUP RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN & HIROKO MALOTT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

In 2015 Japanese language professors at George Washington University gathered with supporters of Japanese language education in the Washington DC area to conceive something new - a "Japanese language education competition for the 21st century." It was named J.LIVE Talk, and its focus is on presentations, not speeches. In today's world, few people make formal speeches, but everyone makes presentations. The question is – can you make an engaging, entertaining, effective, inspiring, and concise presentation to an audience – in Japanese? Student presentations have covered topics from "Why I fell in love with Japanese poetry" to a comparison of Japanese and American roller coasters.

J.LIVE Talk was so popular that it quickly grew into a national competition for university students, and it added a high school division. During the pandemic, it quickly pivoted to online presentations. This year it will return to its live, in-person format, with 12 finalists. In the past eight years, over 350 students have participated, and 21 have been awarded study trips to Japan. The guidelines for making effective presentations that J.LIVE Talk and the Japanese language professors at GW established have been adopted in classrooms across the United States. J.LIVE Talk clearly is making an impact on Japanese language education for the next generation.





# COLETTE H. FOZARD

CHF ASSOCIATES

*Award Recipient*

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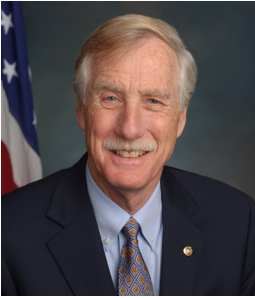
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## **2023 INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN & HI-ROKO MALOTT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Colette H. Fozard has had a lifelong fascination with Japanese culture, going back to her early interest in traditional Japanese woodblock prints. What makes Colette's fascination different is that for nearly 25 years she has shared her interest in Japan with others through the many events she has organized, from anime conventions to the Society's own Sakura Matsuri.

Colette organized her first anime convention in 1999, and since then she has brought popular Japanese culture to well over 100,000 attendees. In 2006 the Society asked her to use her expertise and organize a new section for its annual Sakura Matsuri, called "J-POP Land." Since then Colette's role at the Matsuri has continued to grow, serving as the festival's operations director and now manager of the nation's largest Japanese festival. Between the anime conventions and Sakura Matsuri, Colette has "brought Japan" to well over half a million people here in Washington DC.

Colette's personal interest in Japan continues with her study of kanzashi, the traditional decorative hair ornaments, and Japanese cooking.



# ANGUS KING

UNITED STATES SENATOR  
FROM MAINE

*Presenter*

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In January 2013, Angus King was sworn in as Maine's first Independent United States Senator, filling the same seat once held by storied Maine leaders Edmund Muskie, George Mitchell, and Olympia Snowe.

A strong believer in the need for greater bipartisan dialogue and relationship building, Senator King is proud to join the long line of thoughtful, independent leaders from the State of Maine, and he works hard every day to bring Republicans and Democrats together to find common-sense solutions for Maine and America. He is a proven consensus-builder who "calls 'em like he sees 'em", putting civility and respect ahead of political ideology.

Senator King is a member of the Armed Services Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He has made it a priority not to miss Committee hearings, earning him praise from his colleagues and the reputation as a workhorse in the Senate. The late Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), who served as Armed Services Chairman, once called Senator King "one of the most serious and hard-working members" of the Committee.

Prior to taking office, Senator King served as the 72nd Governor of Maine. During his two terms in the Blaine House, he focused on economic development and job creation. Then-Governor King also achieved significant reforms in education, mental health services, land conservation, environmental protection, and the delivery of state services. He was re-elected in 1998 by one of the largest margins in Maine's history.

Senator King is married to Mary Herman and has four sons, Angus III, Duncan, James, and Ben, one daughter, Molly, and seven grandchildren. He attended Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia Law School. In his free time, he enjoys exploring the Maine outdoors with his family in their camper.



# WILLIAM HAGERTY IV

UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM  
TENNESSEE

*Speaker*

United States Senator Bill Hagerty was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2020 and is currently serving his first term representing the state of Tennessee. His committee assignments include: U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs; U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; and the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules & Administration. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Senator Hagerty served as the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the world's third largest economy and America's closest ally in the region.

Senator Hagerty is a life-long businessman. He started his business career with the Boston Consulting Group, where his work took him to five continents, including three years based in Tokyo, Japan. He later became a venture capital and private equity investor where he invested in and served as an executive and board member of a wide range of companies, including ones listed on the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ. From 2011 to 2014, Senator Hagerty took leave from his business career to serve as a member of the Governor's Cabinet and Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. During his tenure as commissioner, Senator Hagerty reorganized the department, eliminating over 40 percent of the positions and saving millions of taxpayer dollars. At the same time, the new approach helped spur the strongest economic transformation seen — taking Tennessee from an unemployment rate higher than the national average when he arrived to become the number one state in the nation for jobs created through foreign investment and being named State of the Year for Economic Development an unprecedented two years in a row during his tenure.

Senator Hagerty, an Eagle Scout, is originally from Sumner County, Tennessee. Today, he and his wife Chrissy are both active volunteers in several community and civic organizations, and live in Davidson County, Tennessee. They are the parents of four children.

# THE MARSHALL GREEN AWARD

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The Board of Trustees of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC established the Marshall Green Award in 2011 to recognize “an individual or group that has made a sustained and significant contribution to strengthening relations between the United States and Japan, and/or to increasing understanding between the American and Japanese people.”

Marshall Green was one of America’s most distinguished diplomats. His adventurous diplomatic career began as private secretary to Ambassador Joseph Grew in Tokyo 1939-41. During World War II he trained as a US Navy Japanese language officer. His career included service as Special Assistant to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles; Charge d’Affaires in Seoul during the 1960 uprising against President Sygman Rhee; and Ambassador in Indonesia during the 1965 overthrow of Sukarno. He was Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs during the Nixon Administration, a historic and tumultuous time that included the Vietnam War, the opening to China, and the reversion of Okinawa to Japan. Marshall Green was one of the founders of JASWDC in 1957; in fact, it is his signature on the Articles of Incorporation. In 1983, he became the Society’s President and later its Chairman, leading its transformation from an all-volunteer to a professional organization. He was a passionate believer in educational outreach to local schools. He and his wife Lisenard endowed the Society’s educational fund, which over the past three decades has introduced new generations of Americans to Japan and the world.



# MASANORI "MASHI" MURAKAMI

FIRST JAPANESE PLAYER IN MAJOR  
LEAGUE BASEBALL

*Award Recipient*

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## 2023 RECIPIENT OF THE MARSHALL GREEN AWARD

Japan-America Society of Washington DC is honored to present the 2023 Marshall-Green Award to Masanori "Mashi" Murakami.

Though we now take for granted the presence of Japanese stars in the Major Leagues, it was not always that way. Ninety-two years after baseball was introduced to Japan by an American teacher, it was Mashi who ventured across the Pacific, as a teenager, to become the first Japanese player—and first Asian player—to play in the Major Leagues. Mashi performed with distinction for the Giants, and his skill, combined with his kindness and humility, earned the affection and admiration of many Americans. Mashi blazed the trail for the many more Japanese greats who have followed. Today, Japanese players are American All-Stars, and it is normal for American kids to wear major league jerseys with Japanese surnames on the back. For many Americans who may never pick up a Japanese textbook, Mashi connected them to Japan just the same, using baseball as the common language.

The Society commends Mashi Murakami for his extraordinary achievements promoting friendship and understanding between the people of Japan and the United States.





## MASANORI "MASHI" MURAKAMI

FIRST JAPANESE PLAYER IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

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Masanori "Mashi" Murakami was the first Japanese player to play Major League Baseball. Murakami was sent by the Nankai Hawks to train with Class A Fresno Giants in the California League in 1964. Murakami impressed the Giants, and in August of that year, he was promoted to the major league club. On September 1, 1964, he took the mound at Shea Stadium in New York, becoming the first Japanese player to play in the major leagues. Murakami would play two successful seasons with the Giants before being called back to Nankai due to contractual obligations. Murakami would play another successful 17 years in the NPB before retiring in 1982. Since retirement, Murakami has coached in the US and Japan, and he is now a commentator and columnist. He also served as a director of the Imagine One World Kimono Project and as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

# TUFFY RHODES

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER (RET.)

*Special Guest*

Tuffy Rhodes is a retired American professional baseball player. He played six years in Major League Baseball in the US, and thirteen years in Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) in Japan. Rhodes is the all-time NPB home run leader among foreign-born players, and he is 13th overall with 464 home runs in Japan. He hit 55 home runs in 2001, tying the NPB single-season mark set by Sadaharu Oh in 1964.

Prior to his career in Japan, Mr. Rhodes was a center fielder playing for the Houston Astros, Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox from 1990-1995. After the 1995 season, Rhodes signed with the Kintetsu Buffaloes in the Pacific League of NPB.

In the 2001 season, he hit his 55th homer to tie Sadaharu Oh's Japanese League single season home run record, set in 1964. In total, Mr. Rhodes played ten years in the NPB, with the Kintetsu Buffaloes, the Yomiuri Giants, and the Orix Buffaloes. After ten seasons in NPB, Mr. Rhodes became just the second foreign player to accrue the required service time to no longer be counted as a foreign player for roster purposes. Mr. Rhodes retired at the end of the 2009 season.

# DANIEL J. KIRTENBRINK

UNITED STATES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

*Special Guest*

Daniel J. Krittenbrink became Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs on September 24, 2021. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, Krittenbrink has been an American diplomat since 1994. Assistant Secretary Krittenbrink previously served as U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2017-2021), Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council (2015-2017), and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing (2013-2015). He also completed multiple other overseas tours in Beijing, Tokyo, Sapporo, and Kuwait City. His other Washington assignments have included Director of the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs at the Department of State and Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

A Nebraska native, Assistant Secretary Krittenbrink earned a master's degree at the University of Virginia, and a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He speaks Chinese and Japanese.

# *To our Capital Gala Team:* **THANK YOU!**

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JASWDC would like to extend a huge thank-you for our dutiful and hard-working volunteers who set aside their time to come help us with on-the-day logistics and handling of the 37th Annual US-Japan Capital Gala!

**CHRISTINE BERTZ** || 37th Annual Gala Volunteer

**ANETERA BRYANT** || Current JASWDC Japan Bowl intern

**LIAM COGHLAN** || Former JASWDC intern

**JESSICA MEAGHER** || 37th Annual Gala Volunteer and JASWDC Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival Subcommittee member

**EMILY PITTS** || JASWDC Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival Subcommittee member

**LAUREN RICE** || 2023 Acting Gala Dinner Manager and former JASWDC Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival Subcommittee member

**KARISHMA SINGH** || Former JASWDC Communications Assistant Intern

**JUAN (JC) VARGAS** || JASWDC Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival Subcommittee member

**ANNA YOSHIDA** || 37th Annual Gala Volunteer

## **お疲れ様でした!**

# 37TH GALA STAFF

**EMILY JOHNSON || GALA MANAGER**

**SAM HARRIS || GALA AUCTION MANAGER**

**LUCIANA MARTORELL || GALA DESIGN & PUBLICITY**

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## JASWDC STAFF

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**COLETTE H. FOZARD**

Sakura Matsuri Event Manager

**MAI GAIDAMAK**

Japanese Language School Coordinator





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# IN MEMORIAM

Japan America Society mourns the loss, and celebrates the memories, of several dear friends who have left us over the past year.

## **CHRISTIAN CHOI**

Christian Choi was a certified sommelier of Japanese sake who, through his work at Youngwon Trading, and his infectious passion for sake, pioneered an interest and appetite for high quality sake in the National Capitol Region. If you've been to an event, restaurant, or store in our region with great sake, chances are very good that it was Christian's doing, or that he played a role.

Christian, was a generous supporter of the Society, who touched many through his generous support, loving camaraderie, and willingness to share of his passion and expertise.

## **KURT KUMAGAI**

Kurt Kumagai was the former publisher of the DC-area Japan Axxes magazine, in the 1980s and 1900s, and local distributor of the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper (in the days that it was available in print form). He played a crucial role in producing the Society's Sakura Matsuri-Japanese Street Festival during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, through his alliances with Japanese restaurants, performers, and vendors. Mr. Kumagai played a pivotal role in transforming the Society's small, and family-focused Matsuri, into the largest Japanese cultural event in the country.

## **LILY TANAKA**

Lily Tanaka, spouse of former Society President William H. Tanaka, was a long-time supporter of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. Mrs. Tanaka's donations helped to establish and enable the Society's Tanaka & Green Scholarships, which have supported study abroad in Japan for over forty American students since 2014. Mrs. Tanaka was a regular attendee of the Society's US-Japan Capital Gala.



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY  
OF WASHINGTON DC

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*Thank you for joining us in  
this year's celebration.*

