

U.S. Independence Day Special

A time to reflect on founding values

WILLIAM HAGERTY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN



It is with great pleasure that I convey the best wishes of President Donald Trump and the American people on this Independence Day to our allies and partners throughout Japan. I am honored to serve

as U.S. ambassador to Japan as we celebrate the anniversary of our nation's founding.

For Americans, the Fourth of July traditionally is a time for barbecues and fireworks. It is also a time to reflect upon the values that drove America's founding fathers to seek independence. Our fundamental belief in liberty is something we share with the Japanese people, and forms the foundation of our unique partnership.

This has been a landmark year for the U.S.-Japan alliance. Our president has made the enduring strength of our relationship clear with two historic and consecutive visits during the preceding months. In May, he had

the honor of being Japan's first official state guest of the Reiwa Era, in what was the longest visit by a U.S. president to a single country in living memory. In June, the president returned to participate in the G20 leaders summit in Osaka.

Japan is our closest security partner and our alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. We are working closer than ever before, increasing the depth of cooperation and interoperability between U.S. forces and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. Japan has been an essential partner in bringing North Korea to the negotiating table and in addressing Chinese assertiveness in the South and East China seas. Though we face increasing pressure from regional rivals, we remain focused on ensuring we are equipped to meet all emerging challenges.

Together, the U.S., Japan and other regional allies are also advancing a shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. We seek to facilitate sustainable infrastructure projects, address security challenges and drive economic growth in one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Furthermore, we are clearing the market of

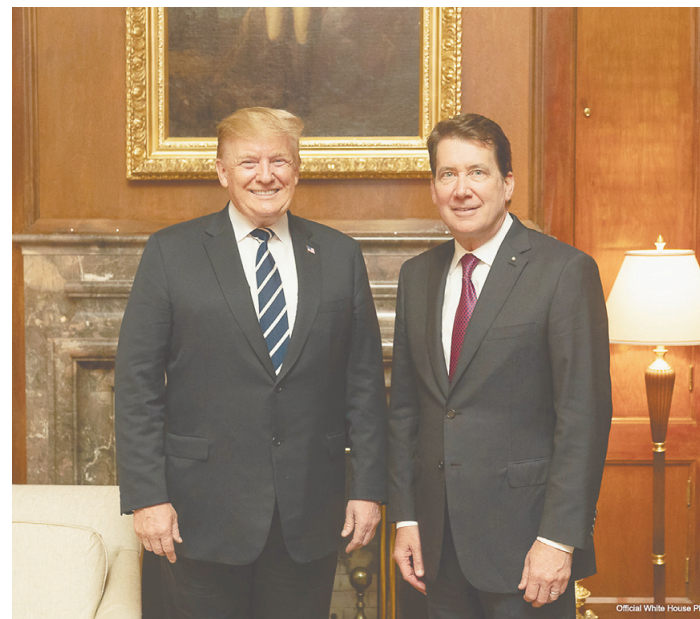
state-subsidized competitors in critical communications infrastructure. By prohibiting subsidized companies, we eliminate market distortion and create a level playing field that encourages the capital investment necessary for true innovation.

The president's visits were also an excellent opportunity to reaffirm the importance of our economic ties. The U.S. and Japan represent the two largest free market economies in the world. Our vibrant and mutual cross-border investment and important trade relationship contribute greatly to our shared prosperity. Our leaders have agreed to redouble efforts to put in place a bilateral trade agreement that will benefit both countries, and I am optimistic we can achieve more reciprocal and balanced trade.

This July, we have twice the reason to celebrate as we mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing and humankind's first footsteps on the surface of the moon. Half a century after making that giant leap, the U.S. and Japan will begin building upon our shared history of achievement in space. Recently, the president and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed to expand our nations' cooperation in advancing human space flight. The U.S. and Japan will collaborate, alongside other partners, to return to the moon and lay the foundation for further human exploration across the solar system.

It has been a remarkable year for our U.S.-Japan relationship, with more to look forward to in the future. On behalf of the mission Japan team, the U.S. government and the American people, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Independence Day.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



President Donald Trump and Ambassador William Hagerty during the president's visit to Tokyo in May WHITE HOUSE



President Donald Trump and Ambassador William Hagerty attend a discussion with Japanese business leaders held at the ambassador's residence in Tokyo in May. U.S. EMBASSY



Ambassador William Hagerty and his wife Chrissy Hagerty at the 2018 Independence Day reception at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo U.S. EMBASSY

*Congratulations to the American People
on Their Independence Day*



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Congratulations

on the 243rd Anniversary of
American Independence Day



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