

U.S. Independence Day

Friendly cooperation in business, security, technology and sports

JASON P. HYLAND
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE U.S.



On the occasion of our nation's 241st birthday, I am delighted to extend warm wishes to Americans residing in Japan, and to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese people, our gracious hosts.

For those of us living overseas, often far away from friends, loved ones and the communities where we grew up, Independence Day takes on added meaning. The holiday gives us a chance to come together with new friends and colleagues to celebrate that bold endeavor when the founders of our nation challenged the existing order and sought independence. It is also a time to reflect on the values of freedom, equality and opportunity that have guided American history and inspired the world.

To Americans everywhere, Independence Day has a sentimental appeal. It recalls our humble beginnings and reflects our lofty aspirations. The Declaration of Independence, a document that charted a new path for a new country, inspires reverence in the hearts of Americans and speaks boldly of respect for humanity, the equal rights of individuals and the responsibilities of government. America and Japan are bound together by our respect for these values and our shared dedication to the ideals of democracy and freedom. This bond is further strengthened by a shared commitment to global prosperity, regional security, scientific discovery and cultural

exchanges that benefit our nations so greatly.

The commitment of the administration of President Donald Trump to this enduring partnership and alliance with Japan has been clear and unwavering. The historic summit meeting between the president and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in February was the highlight of what has been a six-month period of unprecedented senior-level engagement between our two countries. Visits to Japan by Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary James Mattis and others reaffirmed the strength of our alliance and recently culminated in the successful launch of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue.

Our governments work together to fight terrorism, explore outer space and promote economic prosperity. Our companies partner to build aircraft and develop nanotechnologies. And for more than 160 years, American and Japanese citizens have been the beneficiaries of cultural exchanges that have become woven into the fabric of our two nations.

Baseball is perhaps the best example of our cultural connectedness. First introduced to Japan at the end of the 19th century, today baseball is the national pastime in both countries. Many Americans on this day will be cheering for Ichiro Suzuki, Koji Uehara and Yu Darvish, who star in America's major leagues. Similarly, I know that fans of the Nippon Ham Fighters, Hanshin Tigers and Yomiuri Giants will be rooting for Brandon Laird, Randy Messenger and Miles Mikolas this July 4.

Americans in Japan have much to appreciate this July 4 and we look forward to celebrating with our great Japanese friends.



Vice President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence visit a U.S.-Japan Sports Clinic hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on April 19. U.S. EMBASSY



The Miami Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki (left) and the Chicago Cubs' Koji Uehara AP



Fireworks explode over the Lincoln Memorial at the National Mall on July 4, 2016. AP



Independence Day reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Tokyo on July 2, 2015. U.S. EMBASSY

Congratulations to the American People on Their Independence Day

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Congratulations
on the 241st Anniversary of
American Independence Day



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