



OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TOKYO

Japanese Americans have made contributions to American society in all walks of life -- in politics, business, and countless other sectors. But beyond enriching American society, they have also played an integral role in building and strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship. At the foundation of the most important bilateral alliance in the world is human relationships. And Japanese Americans have been indispensable in cementing the unbreakable ties between our two nations.

Today, our two countries are the closest of allies, but just a few generations ago we were the bitterest of foes on opposite sides of a global war. The story of the U.S.-Japan partnership is one of the most remarkable transformations in international politics of the last century. Amid the changes in this international landscape lay Japanese Americans, navigating a changing world, finding ways to share their culture, bring our nations together, and enrich both societies. Their stories are as fascinating as they are important and provide countless lessons for us all. Those who seek wisdom study history, and great museums bring that history to life. That's precisely what the Japanese American National Museum has done – and will continue to do for generations to come.

Located in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) is a repository of Japanese American history with a community archive of over 160,000 objects. An official Smithsonian Affiliate and designated one of America's Cultural Treasures, JANM illuminates the stories and the rich cultural heritage of people of Japanese ancestry in the United States through their exhibitions, public programs, award-winning documentaries, and educational initiatives.

JANM tells the stories of Japanese Americans and their role in America's past, present, and future. As a space to celebrate the contributions of Japanese Americans to society - from their earliest immigration to the decades-long movement for federal redress of the WWII incarceration - JANM also underscores the fundamental shared values of the U.S. and Japan as global beacons of democracy. It offers a space for the reflection and learning so that people from America and Japan alike remain vigilant in upholding principles of democracy and diversity in the next era of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

Congratulations to JANM for their achievements these past 30 years. Learning from history has never been more important. I hope that you will join me in offering support to JANM at this important juncture, and in doing so contribute to protecting the Japanese American legacy and building the future of U.S.-Japan relations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rahm Emanuel".

Rahm Emanuel
Ambassador to Japan