

# NEWS RELEASE



CONSULATE-GENERAL OF  
JAPAN IN CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette Upon Mr. Edward A. Grant, Former President of the Japan America Society of Chicago**

[Chicago, November 3, 2015] On November 3, 2015 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2015 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Among the 89 foreign recipients is Mr. Edward A. Grant, Former President of the Japan America Society of Chicago. He will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in recognition of his significant contributions to promoting friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. The prestigious decoration is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Mr. Grant's association with Japan began when he managed the Japan desk for the accounting firm Arthur Andersen. In that capacity, he has been deeply involved in advancing the Japan-United States relationship in Chicago. Mr. Grant led the Japan America Society of Chicago to new heights as its President from 2008 to 2012 and from 2014 to 2015. He achieved a significant increase in the number of programs, in corporate and individual memberships, and in the participation of university students. He facilitated new partnerships with key Chicago organizations, and brought Japan to a wider audience. From 2008 to 2009, Mr. Grant was President of the Kobe College Corporation-Japan Education Exchange, which provides educational and cross-cultural opportunities in both countries.

Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fumio Kishida, has sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Grant that recognizes his outstanding contributions.

For more information, please contact Keiko Ikemoto of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago at 312-280-0436 or email [keiko.ikemoto@mofa.go.jp](mailto:keiko.ikemoto@mofa.go.jp).

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## **Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette Upon Mr. Francis P. Lemery, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Kansas City and Former President of the Heart of America Japan-America Society**

[Chicago, November 3, 2015] On November 3, 2015 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2015 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Among the 89 foreign recipients is Mr. Francis P. Lemery, Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Kansas City and Former President of the Heart of America Japan-America Society. He will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in recognition of his significant contributions to promoting exchanges and friendship between Japan and the United States. The prestigious decoration is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Mr. Lemery has long been instrumental in shining a bright light on Japanese culture in the Greater Kansas City area. As President of the Heart of America Japan-America Society from 2003 to 2007, he broadened its range of programs, increased its membership, and heightened its role in the community. When Mr. Lemery led the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival as its Executive Director, both its program offerings and attendance expanded significantly. He organized Kurashiki Week 2007, which welcomed 500 Kurashiki residents and officials to Kansas City for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the sister city relationship. As Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Kansas City since 2011, Mr. Lemery has been making an important contribution to further promoting the relationship between Japan and the United States.

Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fumio Kishida, has sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Lemery that recognizes his outstanding contributions.

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