



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Order of the Sacred Treasure Conferred upon
Two Individuals in Kansas
for Outstanding Contribution to Japan-US Relations**

[November 3, 2019] On November 3, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2019 Autumn Decoration, which is conferred by the Emperor of Japan.

From Kansas, two individuals have been recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Japan-US relationship. The recipients include:

- **Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays for Ms. Lizann Kesse**, Assistant to the Consul General of Japan at Kansas City, Member of GLOBE International Executive Leadership Program, Recipient of Shimizu City “Key to the City”, Recipient of Citation for Assiduous Service by Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Kesse was involved with the Consulate-General of Japan at Kansas City throughout its entire 25 year existence, serving as assistant to nine Consuls General of Japan in total. This gave her an incredibly deep understanding of the work that goes into the Japan-US relationship. With that deep understanding, she has gone on to provide expertise to the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago.

- **Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays for Mr. John W. Matthews**, Member of the Heart of America Japan America Society, Assistant to Consul General of Japan at Kansas City, Recipient of Citation for Assiduous Service by Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Matthews has been essential to the Japan-Kansas relationship throughout his career, particularly during his time as Assistant to the Consul General at Kansas City from 1979-1999. His excellent skill in Japanese and his deep cross-cultural understanding has been of utmost importance in his community. With nearly 30 years of experience in Japanese-to-English translation work, he helped facilitate the creation of relationships between Japanese companies and the State of Kansas.

The remarkable achievements of each recipient represent the diversity and depth of the relations between Japan and the United States.

For more information, please contact the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago at 312-280-0400.

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