

Press Release

Condolences from Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Mr. Kenichi Okada On the Passing of Vice President Walter F. Mondale

April 20, 2021

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of the Honorable Walter F. Mondale. He leaves behind an enduring legacy and will long be remembered as an advocate for truth, as a catalyst for progress, and as a champion of people from all walks of life. In every facet of his remarkable life, he was a true friend to Japan and her people. Both the Japan-U.S. and Japan-Minnesota partnerships are stronger because of his dedicated efforts.

During his time as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Mondale remained committed to doing the greatest good. He played an instrumental role in enhancing the mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. The work that he did as ambassador continues to buttress the important partnership between our two countries. Mr. Mondale's tremendous contribution truly helped build the strong foundation on which the Japan-U.S. relationship stands today.

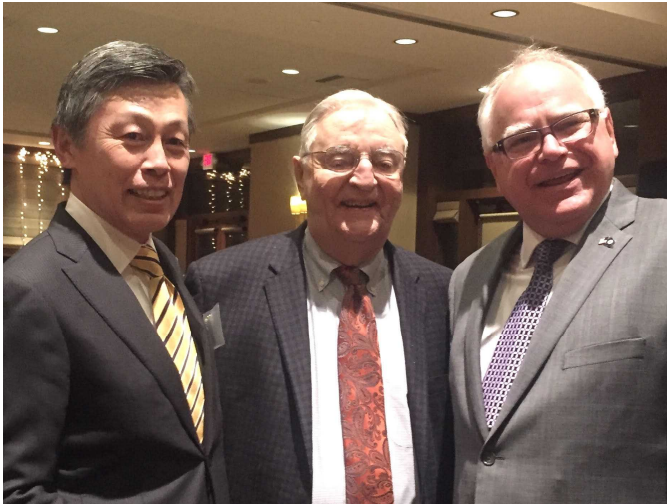
Upon returning home, Mr. Mondale and Mrs. Joan Mondale became key proponents of the Japan-Minnesota partnership. It has been a great honor to work alongside the Japan America Society of Minnesota as they present the annual Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership—named after Joan and Walter Mondale—to an individual or organization that has contributed to the building of understanding, cooperation, and respect between the people of Japan and Minnesota. One of my most precious memories came during the 2019 Mondale Gala. My having just recently taken the position of Consul-General of Japan in Chicago at that time, Mr. Mondale graciously extended a warm welcome and his kindest encouragements to me. It was a great honor to meet and speak with him.

Additionally, the relationship between Japan and Minnesota has been significantly strengthened because of the generous Mondale Scholarship, which is awarded to undergraduate students who want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. Both the award and scholarship have facilitated and fostered a deeper understanding between Japan and Minnesota, helping to further promote the broader Japan-U.S. relationship. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Mondale for all that they have done to grow these partnerships.

On behalf of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago, I wish to offer my sincerest condolences to the family of Mr. Mondale—my thoughts are with them during this difficult time.

With deepest sympathy,

Kenichi Okada
Consul-General of Japan in Chicago



*A photo of Ambassador Mondale taken at the Gala dinner of Mondale Award in Minneapolis 2019.
His right is Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota and the left is myself.