

NEWS RELEASE



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2024 Foreign Minister's Commendation Award Ceremony in honor of Ms. Ikuko Nichols

On Friday, October 11, an Award Ceremony for the 2024 Foreign Minister's Commendation was held at the Official Residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago in honor of Ms. Ikuko Nichols. The Foreign Minister's Commendation was presented to Ms. Nichols by Consul-General Jun Yanagi.

Ms. Ikuko Nichols served as the certified Uchina Ambassador for Okinawa Prefecture for 20 years until retiring last year in 2023. Her activities at the Okinawa Kenjinkai of Chicago contributed greatly to the introduction, preservation, and dissemination of many aspects of Okinawan culture including, but not limited to, music dance, and food. Her actions have helped to cultivate and empower the next generation of leadership. Her dedication in supporting the activities of the local Japanese American community and proactively joining in events such as Japanese festivals to introduce both Japanese and Okinawan culture contributed to the development of mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan. Moreover, her 10 years as a Japanese language teacher at a public school on the south side of Chicago until 2004 were instrumental in promoting understanding of Japan through the spread of Japanese language and culture to the young people in the community.

Ms. Ikuko Nichols, her family, and members of Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai attended the ceremony. Consul-General Yanagi delivered congratulatory remarks and presented Ms. Nichols with the certificate and commemorative gift awarded by the Foreign Minister. Ms. Nichols then delivered the reply address.



Presentation of the Certificate
(Foreign Minister's Commendation)



Group Photo

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