

NEWS RELEASE



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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General Affairs

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Japanese Decoration Conferred upon Ms. Vickie Sakurada Schaepler for her Outstanding Contribution to Japan-U.S. Relations

On April 29th, 2025, the Government of Japan announced the 2025 Spring Decoration, which is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Within the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago's jurisdiction, **Ms. Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Japanese Hall Chair and Coordinator of Legacy of the Plains Museum, Nebraska** has been selected as a recipient of the **Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays** for her contribution in preserving the history of Japanese Americans and promoting understanding of Japan in the United States.

Since 2014, Ms. Vickie Sakurada Schaepler has been leading an effort to preserve and share Japanese American history in Nebraska as the Coordinator of the Japanese Hall and History Project at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, Nebraska.

In 1928, the Japanese Hall was built in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, as a gathering place for immigrant Nikkei, hosting regular meetings, seasonal cultural events, weddings, funerals, and other events. With the migration and dispersal of Nikkei across the United States, and the diversification of Nikkei identity through international intermarriage, the decision was made in 2014 to close and demolish the hall.

She worked with many collaborators and supporters to promote the plan, which resulted in the relocation of the Japanese Hall to the Legacy of the Plains Museum site in Gering and the opening of the Japanese Hall in June 2024.

After the grand opening, she continues to manage the Japanese Hall and implement the next phase of the project as Japanese Hall Chair and Coordinator, Legacy of the Plains Museum.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago is honored to celebrate Ms. Schaepler's accomplishments, which 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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