

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. Barbara Rudzinski for her Outstanding Contribution to Japan-U.S. Relations

On November 3rd, 2025, the Government of Japan announced 104 foreign recipients of the 2025 Fall Decoration, which is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Within the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago's jurisdiction, **Ms. Barbara Rudzinski, Former Local Employee, Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago** has been selected as a recipient of the **Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays** for her contribution in promoting exchanges and friendship between the United States and Japan.

Ms. Rudzinski served as an Official Residence Staff Member at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago for more than thirty years, consistently approaching her duties with sincerity and professionalism. She demonstrated great dedication to the daily upkeep and management of the official residence and made significant contributions to maintaining and enhancing its dignity through her attentive and thoughtful hospitality toward numerous distinguished guests, including state governors and other dignitaries. Through such efforts, she embodied the Japanese spirit of *omotenashi* and played a vital role in elevating the reputation of both the Consulate and Japan as a whole.

Over the course of her long service, Ms. Rudzinski developed a deep personal interest in *ikebana* (Japanese flower arrangement) and applied her skills to many of the floral displays used both in the daily setting of the residence and on special occasions. By thoughtfully adjusting colors and styles to suit each guest and the season's décor, she created arrangements that were frequently praised by visitors. Her work greatly contributed to promoting appreciation and understanding of Japanese culture and aesthetics.

In recognition of her long and distinguished service, Ms. Rudzinski received the "Long-Term Locally Employed Staff Award (20 Years of Service)" in 2015. Upon reaching the age of seventy-two, she retired from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago on April 30, 2025, after thirty years and seven months of dedicated service. Her exemplary performance and outstanding contributions to the Consulate's operations and Japan's diplomatic presence are hereby duly commended.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago is honored to celebrate Ms. Rudzinski'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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