



AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TOKYO

September 24, 1993

MESSAGE FOR SHIZUOKA CEREMONY

To all the participants in the 1993 U.S.-Japan Joint Memorial service in Shizuoka, please accept my sincere appreciation for the feelings of reconciliation and friendship that you are expressing. Since my recent arrival in Japan, I have been struck by the strong feelings of respect and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States.

As the memories of the tragedy and destruction of the June 1945 attack on Shizuoka fade into history, it is important that we remember how such events came to occur. Our two nations had become locked in a mortal combat that had as its root cause mutual distrust and lack of respect, feelings which eventually led to mutual hatred and inevitably led to events such as the devastation of Shizuoka. Ceremonies such as today's allow us to both reflect on past events and to strengthen our resolve to maintain strong ties of friendship and respect between the people of Japan and the United States. It is only with constant effort that we can hope to prevent such tragic events from ever occurring again.

I am personally touched that every year for so many years you have honored the memories of our fellow countrymen that also lost their lives in Shizuoka that day. I therefore thank the organizers of this ceremony and also thank the many participants for taking the time and effort to make today's ceremony possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter F. Mondale".

Walter F. Mondale



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