

Remarks by Dr. Toshiko Abe

State Minister for Foreign Affairs

March 23, 2019

On behalf of Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, I would like to offer a few words here at the Japan-U.S. Reunion of Honor Ceremony.

74 years ago, countless Japanese and American soldiers lost their lives in battle to protect their respective countries and loved ones. I would like to express my deepest respect for their souls and offer my heartfelt condolence to their bereaved family members.

I firmly believe that the fact that our countries, former enemies who fought against one another here on Iwo-to, have come together year after year to hold this ceremony in memory of the deceased demonstrates the power of reconciliation and the strong ties between Japan and the United States.

We must never forget that the peace and prosperity we enjoy today were built upon the noble sacrifice of many people. As we stand before the spirits of the deceased, we must pledge to strengthen the bond of friendship between Japan and the U.S., two countries that share universal values, and commit ourselves to make further efforts to achieve permanent peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and the world.

Once again, I pray that the souls of the deceased rest in peace and extend my best wishes for the health and well-being of everyone present here today.