

## **Remarks by Mr. YAMADA Kenji, State Minister for Foreign Affairs**

March 25, 2023

I would like to deliver this message on behalf of Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the occasion of the Reunion of Honor.

First of all, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the souls of the soldiers of both Japan and the United States who died here 78 years ago for their countries praying for the happiness of their families and loved ones. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

I am honored to participate in the solemn joint memorial service today. Standing here on Iwo-To, where fierce battles between Japan and the United States once raged, I am reminded that the peace and prosperity we enjoy today is built on the precious sacrifices of those who lost their lives.

Today we face the most challenging and complex security environment in recent history. I pledge once again that the United States and Japan, firmly united by our shared values, including freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, will work together more than ever before and make an tireless effort to achieve peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Iwo-To Association of Japan and the Iwo Jima Association of America, as well as to all those involved in organizing today's Reunion of Honor. I would also like to reiterate my sincere condolences and prayers for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives. I also pray for peace, and would like to express my heartfelt wishes for the good health of all those attending here today.

YAMADA Kenji,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan