

## **Remarks by Mr.Horii Iwao,** State Minister for Foreign Affairs

March 28, 2026

I would like to deliver this message on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the occasion of the Reunion of Honor Ceremony.

First, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the souls of the soldiers of both Japan and the United States who died here 81 years ago for their countries, praying for the happiness of their families and loved ones, and extend my deepest sympathies to their 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 that exists between Japan and the United States and throughout this region is built on the precious sacrifices of those who lost their lives and the untiring efforts of both countries.

As competition among nations intensifies, becomes more complex, and is becoming the norm, the free, open, and stable international order we have long enjoyed is being significantly shaken. In this context, Japan and the United States, firmly bound by the Japan-U.S. Alliance, serves as the cornerstone for stability, peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. We will work together, more than ever before, and continue to make tireless efforts to achieve peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Iwo-To Association of Japan, the Iwo Jima Association of America, as well as and all those involved, for their dedicated efforts in organizing today's memorial ceremony. I once again pray for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives and for peace, and extend my heartfelt wishes for the good health of all those present here today.

HORII Iwao  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan