



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Defense Attaché Office  
Tokyo, Japan*

U-007-14

10 January 2014

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Ziak  
OBON 2015  
P.O. Box 282  
Astoria, Oregon 97103

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ziak,

The Ambassador has asked me to reply to your letter concerning *Yosegaki Hinomaru*.

Thank you for the information regarding the impressive humanitarian efforts to return *Yosegaki Hinomaru* to families of missing Japanese World War II soldiers. The United States expends great energy to recover remains and artifacts of missing service members, and I am confident the American people would easily understand the desire to recover lost *Yosegaki Hinomaru*.

Ambassador Kennedy often speaks publicly of her father's efforts to encourage reconciliation and friendship between the United States and Japan. Indeed, President Kennedy invited the commander of the boat that destroyed his PT boat to his Presidential inauguration. In real and tangible ways, OBON 2015 continues President Kennedy's spirit of reconciliation and friendship. Your program is a powerful symbol of the true warmth and deep partnership our two nations now share.

OBON 2015's work to raise awareness of the deep significance of *Yosegaki Hinomaru* and to assist Americans who wish to return these special flags to the families of missing Japanese soldiers is truly inspiring.

The United States Defense Attaché Office is pleased to be the Embassy Tokyo point of contact for OBON 2015. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any future assistance.

Sincerely,

James O'Leary  
CAPT, USN  
Senior Defense Official / Defense  
Attaché

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