



**COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
(USPACOM)
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028**

July 20, 2017

Mr. Rex Ziak
OBON Society
PO Box 282
Astoria, Oregon 97103

Dear Mr. Ziak:

Thank you for your letter sent on June 16, 2017 informing me of former U.S. Marine Martin Strombo's journey to return Mr. Sadao Yasue's *hinomaru*. I share your appreciation of the symbolic significance of returning these wartime memorabilia and agree that we can do some internal communication to share this story. I have asked Lieutenant General Dave Berger, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, to help share this story through the Public Affairs team stationed aboard Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

Sharing the legacy of service and reconciliation through the stories of the veterans and their descendants is a worthy endeavor, and I appreciate the opportunity to assist in furthering the communication of these stories. I also appreciate your concern for our Nation's veterans and your interest in advancing the U.S.-Japan alliance, which remains a cornerstone of stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry Harris", is positioned above the typed name.

HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.
Admiral, U.S. Navy

cc:

Commandant of the Marine Corps
Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (Code 00)
Chief of Information, OPNAV