



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

August 11, 2015

Keiko and Rex Ziak  
AVA/OBON 2015  
P.O. Box 282  
Astoria, OR 97103

Dear Keiko and Rex,

Please accept my best wishes as you return from your mission to reunite Japanese families with artifacts taken during WWII by United States soldiers. These important pieces of memorabilia provide a bridge between Japanese and American cultures and your mission to return them strengthens the bond between our two nations.

The *yosegaki hinomaru* you transported back to Japan will bring peace of mind to many families. It is clear the U.S. veterans who traveled with you were also transformed by this experience. Thank you for making the extraordinary effort to build peaceful and strong relationships with families of Japanese veterans and putting a spotlight on your efforts to reunite these families with their lost heirlooms.

Your hard work and dedication has made a positive impact in many lives, both in the United States and Japan. The journey you undertook to reunite families with the flags taken from their loved ones will continue to strengthen the partnership between our countries and provide an outlet for American veterans to work through their experiences during WWII and its aftermath. Thank you again.

Warmest Regards,

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator