

OBON SOCIETY



OBON SOCIETY heals the lingering grief in veterans and their families while also providing a path for international reconciliation with former adversaries.

OBON SOCIETY: *Defined*

In the U.S., we observe Memorial Day, while the Japanese counterpart is called OBON. This occasion serves as a moment to commemorate departed relatives and extend goodwill to their spirits. We adopted this name because honoring past ancestors and easing the grief of lost loved ones aligns with our fundamental mission.



Rex Ziak- Co-Founder
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To obtain photos call Rex

OBON SOCIETY: *Vitals*

- ***Email address:*** media@obonsociety.org
- ***Mailing address:*** P.O. Box 282 Astoria, OR 97103
 - ***Phone number:*** 503-741-3733
 - ***Year founded:*** 2009
- ***OBON SOCIETY History:*** [How it all began](#)
 - ***Headquarters:*** Astoria, Oregon
- ***Co-Founders:*** [Rex and Keiko Ziak](#)
 - ***Website:*** www.obonsociety.org
- ***Number of items returned:*** Over 750
- ***Non-Profit status:*** 501(c) (3) tax-exempt Oregon non-profit corporation



OBON SOCIETY: *Media*

OBON SOCIETY-related stories have appeared in 500+ news stories in print and television and Podcasts around the world, including the following:

The Seattle Times Aug. 2017

[WW2 veteran hand delivers flag back to Japanese siblings](#)

The Today Show 2017

[WW2 veteran hand delivers flag back to Japan](#)

Stars and Stripe 2019

[US airman returns flag to a family in Japan](#)

McClung Museum, University of Tennessee 2021

[McClung Museum returns flag to Japanese family](#)

Stars and Stripes 2022

[Family from Utah hand delivers the flag to a Japanese family](#)

Kris 6 News Corpus Christi 2023

[USS Lexington journeys to Japan to hand deliver a flag to a family](#)

ABC 4 News South Carolina 2024

[Patriots Point to return war War-torn Flag to Japanese family](#)

Consular Office of Japan in Portland OR

[Co-founder Rex Ziak receives the Order of the Rising Sun award from the Japanese Emperor](#)



Visit the OBON SOCIETY [YouTube Channel](#) for a complete list of videos available to view including these:

[A Brother receives his lost Brother's remains: Yosegaki Hinomaru Tsukashima Return](#)

[Dr. Mark Shelton from Louisiana returns the Spirit of a WWII Japanese soldier to Hokkaido sisters](#)

[Joe Rosenberg & Roman Mars from the Podcast 99% Invisible tells the history of the Yosegaki Hinomaru Flag](#)

[Small Japanese diary from WWII goes home](#)

[USS Lexington, Japanese widow, and OBON SOCIETY](#)

[Veteran who served in Iraq talks about returning flag to Japanese family](#)

[American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor work with OBON SOCIETY to return flag](#)



OBON SOCIETY: *Photos*



Rex and Keiko visit with Caroline Kennedy (above), Prime Minister Abe (below left) and American veterans (below right).





OBON SOCIETY: *Family Photos*



Japanese families benefitting from receiving their loved one's flag from the American veteran families who are eager to return these personal items.

Below- WWII Veteran [Marvin Strombo](#) hand delivered his flag to the siblings of the fallen soldier.

