

I congratulate the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) for marking its 30th anniversary in 2022 and for stepping into a new era. I also extend my deepest gratitude to all the Japanese Americans, businesses, organizations, and individuals who have generously supported JANM and helped strengthen the relationship between Japan and the United States.

The post-Cold War era is coming to an end and the international community is facing a turning point in history. The Japan-U.S. Alliance, which plays a critical role in maintaining peace and prosperity in the region and the world, is more important than ever. Our unwavering alliance is bolstered by the trust and friendship between the peoples of the two countries, which have been cultivated through multifaceted people-to-people exchanges.

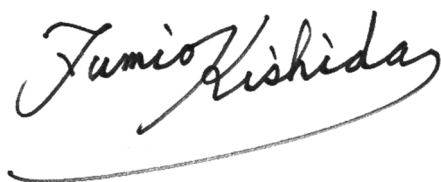
In particular, the Japanese Americans have overcome numerous difficulties and contributed to the prosperity of American society over the past century, earning the trust and respect of the American people. Their presence and efforts have not only contributed to a deeper mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and the United States but also have inspired the Japanese people in Japan and the United States.

JANM preserves the history of Japanese Americans and provides an excellent opportunity for the peoples of Japan and the United States to deepen their understanding of such history and to learn more about the societies of both countries. During my visit as Foreign Minister in 2013, I was deeply touched by the weight of Japanese American history and renewed my respect for the Japanese Americans.

In 1993, then Prime Minister MIYAZAWA Kiichi, a fellow statesman from Hiroshima, sent a message expressing his hope that JANM would serve as a bridge between Japan and the United States. Throughout its three-decade history, JANM has indeed played a magnificent role as the bridge and is about to open a new chapter.

Bearing in mind the history of Japanese Americans, President Biden and I paid tribute to the history, contributions, and cultural traditions of Japanese Americans and called on younger generations to participate more actively in mutual exchanges and cooperation between Japan and the United States in our Joint Statement issued during the President's visit to Japan in May 2022. It is my hope that the younger generation, including Japanese Americans, will carry on the memory and legacy of their predecessors and follow in our footsteps as leaders of a new era and work for the Japan-U.S. relations.

I hope that JANM will make even greater strides while handing over to the younger generations the bonds between our two countries, which share universal values such as democracy and human rights, with your continued understanding and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fumio Kishida". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a long, thin horizontal line that tapers at both ends.

KISHIDA Fumio
Prime Minister of Japan