



Mark Jackson

HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye

It is with great personal sadness that I learned of Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye's passing earlier today.

Throughout her life, she dedicated herself to the success of the Japan-USA relationship. Having been the wife of Japan-born US Senator Daniel Inouye (Hawaii) and the founder/CEO of the US Japan Council, she never tired of promoting the cause of Tomodachi (friendship) between the two countries.

Hers was a story that spanned a lifetime.

Her many accomplishments are catalogued across Japan and the United States; most recently in Alabama.

Her bold keynote speech at the Japan America Society of Alabama 30th Anniversary Annual Dinner in September 2019, heralded the commitment both nations made to each other and to the world. She spoke of her life, her struggles, her successes and of her partnership with her husband. Her speech was informational and inspiring.

All who were in attendance will remember her presentation.

The executive director of JASA, Ms. Jolie Thevenot, summed up her feelings by saying "the confidence and passion with which she spoke was infectious and incredibly motivating for me in my work with JASA." She further added, "it was a night I will always remember".

We will miss Mrs. Inouye. She left her mark on the world by making it a better place. Why? The answer is simple- because she cared.

-8 April, 2020