



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Sacred Tea Ceremony in honor of the  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Urasenke Foundation of Hawaii  
USS ARIZONA Memorial  
Admiral Patrick M. Walsh  
Tuesday 19 July 2011**

Aloha, good morning and ohaiyoo gozaimasu. I am very grateful to the Urasenke Foundation of Hawaii for the opportunity to be a part of this historic event. Today is important...for many reasons that connect and cut across several generations. We are part of a great circle of community, history, and tradition, where one generation cares for and nurtures the next.

Through a sacred ceremony in this hallowed setting, we honor the sacrifices of an extraordinary generation of men and women....which made possible the gift of peace to generations that follow. Today our quintessential gift has been the opportunity for a proud, strong relationship with our counterparts from the Japanese Self Defense Force. It is a relationship that exists now between families, based on trust, mutual respect, and an inner strength, understood and respected by the descendents of combatants and warriors, and further reinforced by our shared response to modern-day challenges and tests.

Earlier this year, we learned about the strength and the endurance of our friendship. In times of crisis, in the hour of tragedy, at the moment of calamity, we learn about ourselves and about the brotherhood of humanity. If history ever records where there was a time and place to learn about commitment to our fellow man, it will be Japan...in the days that followed March 11, 2011, where more people came to offer assistance than those who departed to avoid the damage caused by the earthquake, tsunami, and radioactive contamination. Where, by any and every measure, the actions taken and the work done by the Japanese Self Defense Force has been heroic...where record numbers of citizens mobilized...to rescue, to find the missing, and to sustain the living. Despite incalculable personal loss and grieving for their own loved ones, the Self-Defense Force carried a deep sense of personal honor and responsibility for the mission.

If history ever records a time and place to witness where the wrath of nature met the best of humanity... it was in Sendai...where the chaos of the sea confronted the orderly life of the city...where a giant wave churned and pushed itself 6.5 miles inland and then pulled everything within its grasp out to sea. But also, where the same powerful wave, summoned an equally powerful force – the essential purity and resolute spirit of the Japanese people, possessed of the wish for peace and security, yet emotionally resolved to meet any challenge and commit themselves for the rest of their lives to build a future for their children, with politeness, patience, and prudence.

If history ever records a time and place to witness an impressive operation, to witness a team in action, to witness heartfelt contribution without concern for credit, it will remember “Operation: TOMODACHI,” as a force that landed on its feet within hours of the unprecedented crisis, and proved beyond measure, what it means to be a friend.

The symbolism of this morning's ceremony is rich - a sacred ritual that embodies the essence of Japanese culture and tradition – held in the final resting place of those fallen at Pearl Harbor – and conducted by an ambassador of peace who contributed so much to the healing process between our two nations. Thank you, Dr. Sen, for enriching the lives of so many around the world and honoring their sacrifice.