



Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Admiral Scott H. Swift
70 Years of Peace
Commemoration Ceremony
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
August 14, 2015
As prepared for delivery

Mayor Mori, Mayor Caldwell, citizens of Nagaoka and Honolulu, I am honored to speak at tonight's commemoration.

This event marks 70 years since the end of hostilities in World War II and the beginning of a lasting peace and friendship which has connected our cities, our maritime forces and our people ever since.

We are joined together tonight by a floral tribute and three white chrysanthemum fireworks, displayed over the very harbor where that war began and not far from the battleship, USS Missouri, on which it ended.

Though bright and short-lived, these gestures are symbols of our longstanding friendship, and honor our people and the people of all nations who lost their lives more than seventy years ago.

And the Pacific Ocean - once the source of fierce fighting - has become the lifeblood of our nations and the source of our shared peace, stability, and prosperity. The Chief of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, Admiral Tomohisa Takei, recently summed up the impact of the resolution of the war through the intervening seventy years of stability and prosperity as transitioning an ocean of war to an ocean of peace to an ocean of prosperity.

That peace, stability and prosperity does not happen by itself -- it rests on the constant affirmation of an international framework of norms, standards, rules and laws that is a critical part of our heritage and will continue to shape our future.

Thank you to the organizers for making this commemoration a meaningful way to recognize how far the United States and Japan have come together in the last 70 years and to deepen the relationship between our cities.