CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE, INC.

CONNECTING CULTURES BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

A RETROSPECTIVE
JAST’S MISSION
To strengthen a vibrant bilateral economic future for Tennessee and Japan by building upon longstanding relationships and promoting mutual understanding and cultural awareness among Japanese and American communities in Tennessee.*

ESTABLISHED IN 2000 TO NURTURE GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PRESENCE OF JOB-CREATING JAPANESE-OWNED FACILITIES IN TENNESSEE, THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE (JAST) HAS, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, EXCELSLED IN ITS MISSION. SINCE INCEPTION, JAST HAS PROVIDED A GROUNDSWELL OF FORWARD-LOOKING LEADERSHIP TO BOLSTER JAPAN-TENNESSEE RELATIONS IN A MYRIAD OF WAYS.

The JAST Retrospective is presented as a recollection - using brief narrative and photographic references - of the people and ideas that have shaped JAST’s identity, impact, and resilience over the last two decades. Further, it charts the Society’s efforts to uphold the legacy of catalysts, founders, and supporters, while adapting to realities of a continuously changing world. Above all, it celebrates every remarkable individual who has given of their time, resources, and expertise to advance the evolution of our mission and guide the way ahead.

Generous grant funding for The JAST Retrospective has been made possible by:

CGP

Compiled by Leigh Wieland for JAST, February 2021.
Graphic design by Christa Schoenbrodt, Studio Haus.

* As restated by the JAST Board of Directors, December 2020.
The JAST Retrospective: Celebrating 20 Years of Service comes at a pivotal time in the history of our organization, as the entire world grapples with a pervasive and deadly pandemic. When the Japan-America Society of Tennessee (JAST) officially secured its status as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation in 2000, circumstances here at home and abroad were altogether different than those we face today. Throughout its history, JAST has enjoyed successes far beyond the expectations of its visionary founders, having earned generous community support and attained an unrivaled and unique position in promoting friendly ties and collaboration between Tennessee and Japan.

Today, in planning for the next decade and beyond, JAST faces an era of unprecedented uncertainty. Open-ended disruption currently requires extraordinary reverence for safety and security protocols and the capacity to adapt quickly to the complexities of technology-propelled connectedness at work and in daily life. As these realities loom large for our small not-for-profit, we are optimistic that we will rise to meet the challenges they pose.

By no means exhaustive or complete, this small volume seeks simply to offer a concise record of the achievements of the past and to remind, inform, inspire, and guide JAST’s stakeholders—past, present, and future—as they chart the way forward. It endeavors to celebrate the collective legacy and resilient spirit of a remarkable community of individuals, comprised of civic leaders, government officials, generous philanthropists, community volunteers, and longstanding representatives of corporate partners, all of whom have dramatically shaped the organization’s identity, impact, and history over the last two decades. To them and to our hardworking staff and executive leadership, past and present, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

Personally, I consider my service to JAST on behalf of DENSO a tremendous privilege. As Board Chair, I have witnessed first-hand the outstanding capabilities and integrity of a dedicated staff and the enduring commitment of a resourceful and engaged Board of Directors. Our membership can count on their proven fiscal stewardship in service to statewide communities and the ongoing work of relationship building for years to come. Following the precedent set by esteemed colleagues whose leadership has served the very best interests of the organization, I trust that those who assume the role of Board Chair in future years will find in these pages insights and encouragement, along with a discerning call to action, toward a vibrant bilateral future for Japan and Tennessee.

With gratitude and warmest regards,

Bob Booker
Board Chair (June 2019 – June 2021)

Note: in a document of this brevity, inadvertent omissions invariably occur; for such occurrences, the editors offer in advance sincere apologies.
Among the very first annual JAST events were a membership meeting and golf outing, enthusiastically supported by co-founders Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist and (then) Board President Arnold Perl. Since that time, although hosts, venues, and formats vary from year to year, standing the test of time are friendly social networking receptions, a program featuring notable speakers and timely topics, and presentation of JAST’s Community Service Awards, in recognition of outstanding contributions by individuals and Japanese corporate interests in service to advancement of Japan-Tennessee relations.
THE EARLY YEARS


2002 U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr. agrees to serve as Honorary Co-chair of JAST with Tennessee’s Governor.

2002 Leadership shifts to the mid-state as the JAST Board elects Lebanon-based Toshiba America Corporation executive Robert C. Arnett to serve as its President and hires consumer affairs advocate Elizabeth Owen as part-time executive director. The TN Dept. of Economic and Community Development provides shared office space on an in-kind basis.

MARCH 2000 JAST attains 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit status with Memphis-based public relations executive Maury Bush as executive director. An inaugural newsletter reveals the excitement and activities that launch the organization.
ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST-U.S./JAPAN AND THE JAPAN-U.S. SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATIONS

JAST proudly supports the State of Tennessee’s involvement and leadership role in the Southeast-U.S./Japan Association, serving over the last two decades alongside the state coordinator to ensure success of this highly revered annual joint meeting, at which delegates from seven states and Japan renew longstanding relationships and spark new business collaborations. JAST’s past and future are irrevocably intertwined with Tennessee’s rotation as host state, for which residual private sector funding has provided financial underpinnings to launch JAST in 2000, and in 2010, to bring about an era of financial security and statewide community outreach.
FEBRUARY 2003
Leigh Wieland, former policy advisor to Governor Sundquist, succeeds Elizabeth Owen as executive director; over the next 15 years, she will lead JAST through exponential growth and a multitude of structural, financial, and political transitions.

2004 The Mitsui USA Scholarships in Tennessee Program is established with New York-based Mitsui USA Foundation. Scholarship awards in excess of $220,000 will defray tuition costs for 54 university freshmen in Tennessee over the next 16 years, with more expected in the years ahead.

2004 JAST affiliates with the National Association of Japan-America Societies and establishes an independent office staffed part-time by Executive Assistant Rita Reed.

2004 Sustaining Partnership is secured from TN Department of Economic & Community Development, signifying formalization of a relationship that will provide seamless continuity for Tennessee’s leadership and involvement in the Southeast-U.S./Japan Association.

2005 JAST establishes Community Service Awards to recognize annually those who make outstanding contributions in support of Tennessee-Japan relations.
GAINING GROUND


2006 JAST hosts the first official “Japan Speaker Caravan” in Tennessee with stops in Memphis and Nashville; this will signify the first of many such tours, but the 2008 tour will be the first supported by a new Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.

2007 The Mitsui USA Foundation doubles from two to four and increases the number of scholarships awarded in Tennessee and stipend amounts from $2,500 to $5,000 per student; in 2008, it expands eligibility to applicants statewide.

2007 JAST retains consultant Mari Yamamoto to expand services to JAST members and Tennessee’s Japanese-speaking residents.

2008 JAST is awarded two significant multi-year grants: the Japan Foundation New York’s Center for Global Partnership funds establishment of “JAST West” at the University of Memphis, and Toshiba International Foundation supports an interactive e-learning tool “Things Japanese in Tennessee.”

2008 JAST joins with Japan’s newly established Consular Office in Nashville and Vanderbilt University to establish the Tennessee Area Japanese Speech Contest. The first annual day-long contest attracts 44 students, and grand prize winner Nova Skipper of East Tennessee State University is awarded a round-trip airline ticket to Japan, courtesy of American Airlines, and a cash prize.

2008 JAST organizes Japanese-language disaster preparedness seminars in Nashville and Memphis with the upgraded Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville and features experts on mitigating business risks related to weather-related disasters.

2008 Nashville’s first Consul-General of Japan Hiroshi Sato agrees to serve as Honorary Co-chair of JAST with Gov. Phil Bredesen.
2009 In partnership with Consul-General Sato and members of an Advisory Council and a Working Committee, JAST undertakes development of the inaugural Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival and Tree Planting Project, and quickly assumes primary ownership. Generous private and public sector partners enable JAST to grow the annual celebration from 300 guests in 2009 to an estimated 45,000 in 2017.

2009 Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States, His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki addresses JAST’s annual membership meeting in Nashville to kick-off fundraising for the 34th Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations to be held in 2010.

2009 JAST manages a multi-state performance tour of a Noh theater troupe from Japan at the request of the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.

2010 The 34th Annual Joint Meeting in Nashville concludes with much acclaim from more than 500 attendees from member states and Japan. Matching corporate sponsorships facilitate maximum grant funding, the careful stewardship of which yields a significant windfall for JAST’s financial future.

2011 In response to the 2011 Great Tohoku Earthquake, JAST transforms the annual Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival from celebration into a fundraiser and establishes the Tennessee Tomodachi Fund for Japan Relief. One hundred percent of nearly $204,000 from Tennessee donors is sent directly to disaster relief agencies in Japan over the course of two years.

2011 A prestigious Foreign Minister’s Commendation is conferred upon JAST for its notable work as a trusted partner to strengthen and sustain favorable relations between Japan and Tennessee.
Symbolic of spring, new beginnings, and U.S.-Japan friendship, more than 1,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees now set the stage for the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival. Admission-free and family-friendly, this popular public celebration of Japanese culture with a Tennessee twist is frequented by residents and visitors alike and continues to attract local and international acclaim year after year.
2012 Executive Director Leigh Wieland receives a Foreign Minister’s Commendation for leadership in disaster relief efforts and launching special celebrations and exhibits to promote and commemorate the National Cherry Blossom Centennial “Gift of the Trees.”


2013 JAST hires former American Airlines Account Executive Ginger Byrn as part-time Director of Programs and Membership Development to direct the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival and recruit new corporate members.

2014 On the occasion of the Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and the Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations in Tokyo, JAST facilitates with Sister Cities of Nashville representatives a delegation to witness the official signing ceremony between “friendship cities” Nashville and Kamakura, a union years in the making.
JAST’s Women’s Leadership Forum and Networking Luncheon brings greater awareness to gender disparity and the critical need to invest in the advancement of women everywhere, but specifically in the U.S. and Japan. Beautifully appointed annual programs attract a loyal following and feature women leaders who generously share insights from their own professional careers and personal experiences to inspire actionable change.
2015 On the heels of the arrival of Mr. Masami Kinefuchi who will serve as third in the rotation of Consuls-General of Japan in Nashville, JAST hosts an invitation-only gathering at the iconic Country Music Hall of Fame to welcome an influential business delegation representing the Keidanren, Japan’s leading business federation.

2015 JAST launches the First Annual Women’s Leadership Forum and Networking Luncheon with guest host First Lady Chrissy Haslam at Tennessee’s Executive Residence. The event becomes a highly-regarded member favorite of JAST’s annual program calendar.

2016 JAST organizes its first “Study Mission to Japan” with stops in Nagoya, Kyoto, Yokohama, and Tokyo prior to the Annual Joint Meeting of the SEUS/Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations in Tokyo.

2017 JAST rebrands the Memphis Japan Festival at Memphis Botanic Garden, attracting thousands of visitors to the inaugural autumn festival and earning rave reviews from sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and festival-goers.
Fashioned along the lines of its spring counterpart in Nashville, the autumnal Memphis Japan Festival celebrates Japanese culture in the city that lays claim to being home to Tennessee’s very first Japanese-owned enterprise; Datsun Forklift’s decision to locate a sales office in Memphis in the mid-1970s, it is said, put the state “on the map” and started a trend that would boost the region’s flagging economy in unprecedented and unimaginable ways by ushering in an era of newfound prosperity driven by job-creating investment from Japan.
TO ENHANCE JAST’S VALUE AND FUTURE DIRECTION, PAYING FORWARD THE LEGACY OF THE PAST FINDS NEW RELEVANCE. ADVANCING BUSINESS AND CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN JAPAN AND TENNESSEE COMPELS US TO CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES, LOOKING BEYOND OUR RESPECTIVE BORDERS TO FOSTER SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGES.

2018 The Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville welcomes its fourth Consul-General, Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi. He will serve a brief 17 months before being promoted as Japan’s Ambassador to Mongolia.

2018 The Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates its 10th Anniversary, bringing to successful conclusion a ten-year project to plant 1000 Japanese Cherry Blossom trees in Nashville parks and neighborhoods.

2018 JAST CEO Leigh Wieland retires at year-end and is duly elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

2019 Donna Lee Siple begins her tenure as CEO; Maryville-based Bob Booker of DENSO is elected as JAST’s first Board Chair from East Tennessee; and veteran staffer Rita Reed departs mid-year. Kentucky native and JET Program returnee Peyton Goodman joins JAST as operations and program coordinator in August.

2020 JAST’s year-long 20th Anniversary celebration kicks off in January with recognition of longstanding members and patrons at its Annual Meeting.

2020 Donna Lee Siple resigns; Covid-19 begins to spread around the globe. JAST’s Executive Committee enlists Leigh Wieland as Special Advisor; thereafter, a nimble and reconfigured staff actively shift programs and services for digital delivery and intensify online support to the Japanese-speaking community.

2020 CARES Act funding and generous grants from The Mitsubishi U.S.A. Foundation and the Japan Center for Global Partnership serve to mitigate a projected budget shortfall in a most challenging year.

2020 Japan appoints Mrs. Kayoko Fukushima as fifth Consul-General in Nashville, heralding the arrival of the first woman in this role. In the tradition of her predecessors, she agrees to serve as Honorary Co-chair of JAST alongside Governor Bill Lee.

2020 The JAST Board of Directors at year-end reaffirms the organization’s guiding principles in an updated mission statement: To strengthen a vibrant bilateral economic future for Tennessee and Japan by building upon longstanding relationships and promoting mutual understanding and cultural awareness among Japanese and American communities in Tennessee.
INFLUENCERS, LEADERS & HONOREES

With gratitude, JAST recognizes the generosity and achievements of those who have made relations between Tennessee and Japan one of their highest priorities. The vibrant exchanges that we in Tennessee enjoy today are, in large measure, a testament to their collective legacy of community service and philanthropy.

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS
The Honorable Donald K. Sundquist ............................................. 2000 - 2003
The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr. ........................................ 2000 - 2014
The Honorable Phil Bredesen ..................................................... 2003 - 2011
Consul-General of Japan Mr. Hiroshi Sato ........................... 2008 - 2012
Consul-General of Japan Mr. Motohiko Kato .................... 2012 - 2015
The Honorable Bill Haslam ....................................................... 2011 - 2019
Consul-General of Japan Mr. Masami Kinefuchi ........... 2015 - 2018
Consul-General of Japan Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi .......... 2018 - 2019
The Honorable Bill Lee .............................................................. 2019 - present
Consul-General of Japan Mrs. Kayoko Fukushima ...... 2019 - present

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS & COUNSELOR
Arnold Perl

BOARD CHAIR (IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR)
Arnold Perl ................................................................. 2000 - 2003
Bob Arnett ................................................................. 2003 - 2010 (2010 - 2014)
Chris Karbowiak ......................................................... 2010 - 2014 (2014 - 2016)
Bob Booker ................................................................. 2019 - 2021

VICE-CHAIR
Ed Nelson ................................................................. 2003 - 2010
Celeste Wilson .......................................................... 2010 - 2013
Ralph Schulz .............................................................. 2013 - 2014
Stephanie Russell ...................................................... 2014 - 2017
Joe Durante ............................................................... 2017 - 2021

TREASURER (ASSISTANT TREASURER)
John Walker ................................................................. 2000 - 2011
Mike Fedele ......................................................... 2011 - 2021 (2009 - 2011)

SECRETARY
John Gregory .......................................................... 2000 - 2006
Phil Johnson ............................................................ 2006
Dennis Riddell .......................................................... 2007 - 2013
Cathy Holland .......................................................... 2013 - 2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Maury Bush ............................................................. 2000 - 2002
Elizabeth Owen ......................................................... 2002 - 2003
Leigh Wieland ........................................................... 2003 - 2010

CEO
Leigh Wieland ........................................................... 2011 - 2018
Donna Lee Siple ......................................................... 2019 - 2020

Note: in a document of this brevity, inadvertent omissions invariably occur; for such occurrences, the editors offer in advance sincere apologies.
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

20+ YEARS

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc./Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.

Kenji Shibata .......................... 2000 - 2001
Christine Karbowiak ....................... 2002 - present

Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc. / Brother International Corporation

Bob Cooper .......................... 2000 - 2001
Jerry Dodds .......................... 2002 - 2008
Toru Uchibayashi ....................... 2009 - 2015
Norio Mitsubayashi ...................... 2015 - present

DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.

Keith Kano .......................... 2000 - 2002
Tyler Yamanaka ....................... 2003 - 2005
Hideo Sakai .......................... 2008 - 2009
Yasuhiro “Tyson” Toyama .................. 2009 - 2010
Bob Booker .......................... 2010 - present

Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc. / Brother International Corporation

Nobuo Takeuchi/Eiji Tanaka 2005 - 2008

Komatsu America Corporation

Dennis Riddell .......................... 2000 - 2013
Bruce Nelson .......................... 2013 - 2017
Walt Nichols .......................... 2017 - present

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

John Gregory .......................... 2000 - 2006
Lori Odom .......................... 2007 - 2013
Josh Helton .......................... 2013 - 2015
Randy Boyd .......................... 2015
Leslee Alexander ....................... 2015 - 2018
Masami Tyson ....................... 2018 - present

15+ YEARS

Duthie Associates, Inc.

Bob Duthie .......................... 2003 - 2019

FDX Corporation/FedEx Services

Sandy Dickey .......................... 2000 - 2007
Hiro Ito .......................... 2007 - 2016/2018 - present

Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc.

Akira Ishikawa ....................... 2002 - 2004
Kazumoto Ohashi ....................... 2004 - 2007
Mike Fedele .......................... 2007 - present

Nissan North America, Inc.

Tom Groom .......................... 2003 - 2005
Mark Stout .......................... 2005 - 2015
Manabu Sakane ........................ 2015 - 2017
Hiroki Hasegawa .......................... 2017 - 2018
Andrew Tavi .......................... 2018 - present

Toshiba America Consumer Products, Inc./Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc.

Robert C. Arnett .......................... 2001 - 2003
Kazuo Nishimura ....................... 2004 - 2006
Manabu Sakai .......................... 2006 - 2007
Yukio Kikuda .......................... 2007 - 2009
Brian Pollack .......................... 2009 - 2011
Hiroki Zenda .......................... 2011 - 2014
Rich Huber .......................... 2014 - 2017

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10+ YEARS

American Airlines

AmSouth Bank/Regions Financial Corporation

Baker, Caldwell, Bearman & Berkowitz/Baker Donelson Law Firm
M. Kim Vance ....................... 2008 - 2014  John Scannapieco ...................... 2014 - present

First Tennessee Bank/First Horizon Corporation
Stephanie Russell .................. 2011 - present

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Nelson Capital Corporation

Waller Landsen Dortch & Davis, PLLC
Mike Mizell .......................... 2005 - 2010

5+ YEARS

Blount County Partnership
Fred Forster ....................... 2004 - 2010  Brian Daniels ......................... 2010 - 2012

BNA - Metro Nashville Airport Authority
Cathy Holland ..................... 2012 - present
Robert C. Arnett .................... 2003 - 2012
Celeste Wilson ..................... 2009 - 2018

GOH America Corporation
Kanzi Takayama ..................... 2007 - 2016

Industrial Development Board of Morristown
R. Jack Fishman .................... 2002 - 2011

Iris Management Support
Kenji Shibata ....................... 2002 - 2007

Lakeway Publishers

Marsh, Inc.
Patrick J. Higgins .................. 2007 - 2016

United Recruiters / Mr. Japanese
Yukari Ishii ......................... 2012 - 2021

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NKC of America, Inc.
John Gorris .......................... 2009 - 2018

Northwest Airlines
John W. Moore ......................... 2000 - 2005

Sato America/Sato Global Solutions

Sharp Manufacturing Company of America

Tennessee Municipal League
Margaret Mahery ....................... 2002 - 2007

VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.
Keith Hayes ............................ 2012 - 2018

VIPPS U.S. – Japan Center
James Auer, Ph.D ....................... 2004 - 2012

1 - 5 YEARS

Austin Peay State University
Dr. Alisa White ......................... 2017 - 2020
Danielle Whiteside .................... 2020 - present

BB&T now Truist
Tom O’Connor .......................... 2019 - present

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.

Deloitte & Touche LLP
Kevin Hunsinger ....................... 2016 - present

Calsonic North America, Inc.
Elton Coleman .......................... 2000 - 2002

CCA of Tennessee, LLC
Tony Grande .......................... 2013 - 2015

Ernst & Young, LLP
John Skelton .......................... 2000 - 2002

Frost Brown Todd, LLC

Hardaway Group, Inc.
Rance Bunn ............................ 2000 - 2005

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Jackson Energy Authority
John W. Williams ...................... 2002 - 2005

Jackson Chamber
Mandy White .......................... 2018 - present

Japanese Traders and Manufacturers Association of Memphis
Shinichi Okubo .......................... 2018 - 2019
Takashi Hoshino ...................... 2019 - 2020
Kanzi Takayama ...................... 2020 - present
Joe Durante ............................ 2020 - present
Leigh Wieland ......................... 2019 - present

Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce
Marc Jordan ............................ 2000 - 2002
Phil Johnson ............................ 2003 - 2006

Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.
Joseph Durante/Thomas Shimizu ........ 2016 - 2020

Nationwide Insurance
Jenné Dobard ............................ 2014 - 2015
Stephan Gaffney ....................... 2015 - 2016
Tracey Mudd ............................ 2015 - 2016
Ron Sheth ............................... 2016 - 2017

TBDN Tennessee Company
Bryan Everette .......................... 2016 - 2019
Brian Smith ............................. 2019 - present

United Airlines
Allen Richards .......................... 2017 - 2019
Yoshitaka Hamamoto .................. 2019 - present

University of Memphis
Ralph Faudree .......................... 2000 - 2003

Venues by JFGIII
John Gregory ........................... 2006 - 2007

Young & Perl
Arnold Perl .............................. 2000 - 2003

KEY STAFF, 2003 - PRESENT
Rita Reed ............................... 2003 - 2019
Mari Yamamoto ....................... 2007 - present
Ginger Byrn ............................. 2013 - present
Peyton Goodman ..................... 2019 - present

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COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

Community Service Award Honorees are recognized by JAST for outstanding leadership and accomplishments that have made substantial and enduring contributions to Japan-Tennessee relations, effectively improving public life and the well being of our mutual society. Through these awards, JAST strives to recognize and encourage excellence in community service by Japanese-resident companies, community leaders and volunteers, and to stimulate similar efforts by other companies and individuals in service to the longstanding and growing relationship between Japan and Tennessee.

CHRYSANTHEMUM AWARD

Chrysanthemum Award recognizes exceptional corporate citizenship by Japanese-owned companies which devote significant resources to serving their communities and involving employees at all levels in decisions about company support for community projects.

**2005**
- Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
- DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc
- Nissan North America, Inc.

**2006**
- JTEKT Vonore
- Tennessee Koyo Steering, Inc.
- VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.

**2007**
- Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
- Tuff Torq Corporation

**2008**
- Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc. / Brother International Corporation
- PML, Inc.

**2009**
- JTEKT Automotive Tennessee
- Nissan North America, Inc.
- Bridgestone Tire Operations LaVergne Plant

**2010**
- GOH America Corporation
- VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.

**2011**
- VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.

**2012**
- Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
- DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.
- Nissan North America, Inc.

**2013**
- Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

**2014**
- VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.

**2016**
- Komatsu America Corporation

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## MARGARET G. DUFFY SAKURA AWARD
Margaret G. Duffy Sakura Award recognizes exceptional volunteer efforts by an individual toward the improvement and/or expansion of the relationship between Japan and Tennessee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Margaret G. Duffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Betsy Wedekind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Kiyoshi Kawahito, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Kenji Shibata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Kanzi Takayama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Robert C. Arnett</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## JOHN D. WALKER IRIS AWARD
John D. Walker Iris Award recognizes unique contributions to the enhancement of Japan-Tennessee relations as demonstrated by a company, organization or individual.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Toshiba America Consumer Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Tennessee Meiji Gakuin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Edward G. Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Masaru Sakato, Consul-General of Japan in New Orleans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Sachiko Matsushita, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2010 | Belmont University
      | The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.
      | William H. Morris                                                    |
| 2011 | Mark Cleveland and Swiftwick, Yuki Matsuda, Ph.D.                   |
| 2012 | Hiroshi Sato, Consul-General of Japan in Nashville
      | James E. Auer, Ph.D.                                                 |

## APPRECIATION AWARDS
In addition to recognition through Community Service Awards, JAST has in recent years presented Appreciation Awards to the following individuals and corporate members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Bob Duthie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2020 | Austin Peay State University
      | Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
      | Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc.
      | Bridgestone Americas
      | City of McKenzie
      | Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation
      | DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.
      | Dickinson Wright, PLLC
      | Komatsu America Corporation
      | First Horizon Corporation
      | Gresham, Smith & Partners
      | Jackson Chamber
      | Marsh USA, Inc.
      | Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association (MTIDA)
      | Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc.
      | Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce
      | Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
      | Nissan North America, Inc.
      | NKC of America Inc.
      | Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
      | Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development
      | Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
      | United Airlines
      | United Recruiters/Mr. Japanese

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THE MITSUI U.S.A. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN TENNESSEE PROGRAM

In addition to sponsorship of this longstanding program which provides scholarship stipends for Tennessee undergraduates, The Mitsui U.S.A. Foundation and Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., through generous funding, make possible a number of JAST annual programs and events; the company was honored with JAST’s Chrysanthemum Award in 2013 in recognition of its outstanding contributions to Tennessee-Japan relations.

THE MITSUI U.S.A. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN TENNESSEE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

2004 – 2005
David Elliot, Summertown, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Zach Withers, Monterey, Tennessee Technological University

2005 – 2006
Jamie Price, Clarksville, Austin Peay State University
Allison Springer, Leoma, Tennessee Technological University

2006 – 2007
Mallory Carr, Baxter, East Tennessee State University
Shenouda Shehata, Antioch, Tennessee Technological University

2007 – 2008
Kevin Greiner, Brentwood, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Kyle Griffin, Cordova, University of Memphis
Nicole Martin, Baxter, Tennessee Technological University
Stephen Oi, Brentwood, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2008 – 2009
Chelsea Barnes, Shelbyville, Tennessee Technological University
Audrey Barnette, Greeneville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Aeron Glover, Memphis, University Of Tennessee, Knoxville
Chance Finegan, Cookeville, University of Tennessee, Martin

2009 – 2010
Morgan Jobe, Lake City, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Rudy Saliba, Germantown, Middle Tennessee State University
Halie Vannoy, Morristown, Middle Tennessee State University

2010 – 2011
Joanna Nyland, Smyrna, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Laura E. Bassett, Hixson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Barbara Paschall, Bartlett, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2011 – 2012
Preston Williams, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Samantha Black, Cunningham, Austin Peay State University
William Carpenter, Clarksville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Alexis Wilson, Memphis, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

2012 – 2013
Brent Hopper, Trenton, University of Tennessee, Martin
Jessica Wauford, Dickson, Middle Tennessee State University
Lauren Nyland, Smyrna, Middle Tennessee State University
Elaine Hall, Kingston, East Tennessee State University
Krystal White, Alexandria, Middle Tennessee State University

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2013 – 2014
Grace Delanzo, Parrottsville, University of Memphis
Delaney Driscoll, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Scott Hickman, Nashville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Tyler Layne, Oneida, Tennessee Technological University

2014 – 2015
Kayleah, Bradley, Brentwood, Middle Tennessee State University
Austin Jenkins, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Vipsa Patel, Lexington, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Brianna Taylor, Crossville, East Tennessee State University

2015 – 2016
Celeste Greene, Harrison, East Tennessee State University
Claire Martin, Petersburg, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Sullivan McInturff, Elizabethton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Dailey Thompson, Cordova, University Of Memphis

2016 – 2017
David Gentry, Decatur, Tennessee Technological University
Zari Malbacias, Columbia, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Riley Miller, Clarksville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Cameron Reid, Ashland City, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2017 – 2018
Chyna German, Nashville, University Of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Cierra Roach, Franklin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Garrett Winget, Lexington, East Tennessee State University
Benjamin Winiger, Johnson City, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2018 – 2019
Alisa Barbrie, Franklin, University Of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Sarina Diebenow, Collierville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Katie Nyland, Murfreesboro, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Stephen Williams, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2019 – 2020
Elizabeth Brawner, Bartlett, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Tyler Carver, Jackson, Tennessee Technological University
Stephen Ricketts, Chattanooga, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Daniel Zetterberg, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2020 – 2021
Stella Clymer, Franklin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Rachel Hodge, Franklin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Seth Pierce, Greeneville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Denton Stout, Livingston, Tennessee Technological University

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