



**AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TOKYO**

June 1, 2010

Congratulations to The Japan America Society of Chicago on 80 years of fostering friendship and cooperation between Japan and the United States. In my first year as Ambassador I have truly come to recognize the importance of the work of Japan America Societies in strengthening the ties between our two nations. Established well before the Second World War, your organization predates the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance that has provided security for Japan and stability in East Asia for the last fifty years.

While much has been written about the U.S.-Japan relationship lately, I firmly believe that it is because of the hard work and enthusiasm of groups like yours that our alliance with Japan remains deep and broad. Every reception, performance, lecture, and fundraiser that your society organizes is yet another important step in continuing to build our relationship with Japan. With shared values and a like-minded outlook on a complicated world, the United States and Japan must remain firmly at each other's sides for decades to come. This is what makes your work critical. Maintaining strong ties in the areas of business, education, science, and culture—the foundational elements of our relationship—is key to strengthening our ties even further in the future.

On behalf of President Obama, I thank you for your hard work and hope that your next 80 years as an organization will be even more productive for U.S.-Japan relations. I look forward to working with you to make that happen.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John V. Roos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John V. Roos