



# American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society

Makanda, Illinois

July 11, 2022

His Excellency Tomita Koji  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America  
The Embassy of Japan  
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador

On behalf of the families and members of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society I extend our deep condolences to the Japanese people and the family of former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, whose tragic passing has shocked us all.

While in office Prime Minister Abe Shinzo contributed positively to the improvement of understanding between American prisoners of war of Imperial Japan and the Japanese people. During his tenure eight of the eleven Japan/POW Friendship Program trips took place. These are trips in which American former POWs and families have been invited to Japan and returned to the places of the POW's imprisonment and slave labor. We appreciate that in 2015, in his address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, he mentioned the battles of Bataan and Corregidor and expressed his "eternal condolences to the souls of all American people that were lost during World War II."

We look forward to building upon the relationship he established with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan.

With sympathy,

Ms. Jan Thompson  
President

Daughter of PhM2c Robert E. Thompson USN, Bilibid & Mukden, POW# 2011  
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