

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Yoshi Domoto, Executive Director
at 404-842-1400 or Admin@JASGeorgia.org

Day Lancaster and Yumiko Nakazono to Receive 2021 Mike Mansfield Awards for Contributions to US-Japan Relationship

ATLANTA – The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG) announced that **Mr. Day Lancaster**, Senior Vice President, Japan Corporate Services at NAI Brannen Goddard, and **Ms. Yumiko Nakazono**, Managing Director of the Georgia Department of Economic Development’s Tokyo Office, will receive the 2021 Mike Mansfield Awards.

The Mike Mansfield Awards were established in December 1985 by the Executive Committee of The Japan-America Society of Georgia in honor of former Ambassador Mansfield's outstanding and steadfast efforts in fostering goodwill between Japan and the United States. The awards are presented to outstanding Americans and Japanese who have continuously contributed their efforts toward promoting better understanding of cultural and economic issues between the peoples of the United States and Japan.

JASG Chair, Al Hodge exclaimed, “Day Lancaster was the ‘first in’ as the professional staff for what was then called the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism Office in Japan. Then and now, as a real estate professional, he has continuously supported the Japan-America Society of Georgia’s mission, including chairing the board from 2012-2013. He is a go-to leader and has helped every time he has been asked - if not already volunteering for the need or opportunity. When Georgians think of our state’s businesses investments in Japan and Japan’s businesses here, Yumiko Nakazono is a consistent leader who immediately comes to mind. Her stewardship for our state and mutual interests and her Japan-America Society of Georgia support are extraordinary. Yumiko and Day are always modest, loyal, professional and personal - and our Board of Directors and members are grateful for their many actions on our behalf.”

Day Lancaster was born in Japan to missionary parents and lived there until graduating from high school. After receiving a B.A. in Japanese Studies from Earlham College, he worked for two Japanese electronics companies and subsequently joined the Georgia Department of Industry and Trade, where he worked for eight years, four and a half of which were in Tokyo as Managing Director spearheading the effort to attract over 100 companies from the Pacific Rim to Georgia. After acquiring an Executive MBA from Georgia State University, Lancaster joined an intercultural communications consulting and training firm before starting his career in commercial real estate. In addition to his professional work, Mr. Lancaster serves on the Board of Directors of The Japan America Society of Georgia and served as chair in 2012 and 2013. He has also served as both an officer and a director of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia and chaired the Yamabikokai, a subcommittee made up of Americans working for Japan related companies. During the Centennial Olympic Games he was the ACOG Envoy to the Japanese Olympic delegation, heading up a volunteer team of 18 staff people who assisted the athletes and staff in the Olympic Village and various venues.

“I am a long-time admirer of Ambassador Mansfield and had the privilege of meeting him while in Tokyo as Georgia’s representative and was able to observe his depth of character firsthand. So, I am particularly humbled and honored to be the American recipient of the 2021 Mike Mansfield Award,” Mr. Lancaster shared when asked about the awards named after someone he’s admired for many years.

Yumiko Nakazono was born and raised in Kagoshima, Japan. She graduated from the Faculty of Law, Economics and Literature at Kagoshima University, where she majored in English and American Literature and Linguistics. She worked for Fuji Xerox Corporation before joining Georgia's Japan office in 1989. She was promoted to the position of managing director just five years later. She served under six Georgia governors, during which time the Japanese corporate presence in Georgia has grown significantly. In 2019, Georgia exports to Japan totaled \$1.48 billion and the state has benefited from over \$11 billion in investment from Japanese-affiliated companies since the 1970s. Ms. Nakazono was also presented the Governor George Busbee Award in 2007, which recognizes an individual who has contributed to building ever stronger relationships between Japan and Georgia.

When asked about being named the Japanese recipient of the awards, Ms. Nakazono shared, "I have heard a lot about Ambassador Mansfield, and I am very honored to receive such a distinguished award as the Mike Mansfield Award this time. And I cannot thank enough all the people who helped and supported me throughout my career at the Georgia Department of Economic Development, which has kept providing me with great opportunities to work for the great state of Georgia."

Notable past recipients of the Mike Mansfield Awards include President Jimmy Carter, former Georgia Governors Carl Sanders, George Busbee, and Joe Frank Harris, Ambassadors Kazuo Chiba and Andrew Young, Aflac CEO Dan Amos, and the two most recent winners, Alex Gregory, former Chairman, President & CEO of YKK Corporation of America, and Tom Yamamoto, former Senior Advisor of Murata Electronics North America. For more details about the Mike Mansfield Awards, please visit www.JASGeorgia.org/Mansfield-Awards.

The JASG proudly congratulates the 2021 Mike Mansfield Awards Winners and looks forward to hosting a formal in-person ceremony to present the awards on a date to be determined 2021. For more information, please contact Executive Director of the Japan-America Society of Georgia **Yoshi Domoto** by email at Admin@JASgeorgia.org, by telephone at **404-842-1400** or visit the JASG website at www.JASGeorgia.org.

About Mike Mansfield

Mike Mansfield was first elected to the United States Congress in 1942 as a Representative from the State of Montana. He was elected to the United States Senate from Montana in 1952 and re-elected in 1958, 1964 and 1970. He was elected as Senate Majority Leader in 1961 and served in this capacity until his retirement from the Senate in 1977 – longer than any other Majority Leader in the history of the U.S. Senate. Throughout his career, Mr. Mansfield accepted a number of foreign policy assignments to the U.N. – West Berlin, Southeast Asia, and the Peoples Republic of China – at the requests of four presidents. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him Ambassador to Japan (the twenty-second American Ambassador to Japan) and President Ronald Reagan subsequently renewed the appointment. At his retirement from that post in 1988, he had served longer than any previous American Ambassador to Japan.

About The Japan-America Society of Georgia

The Japan-America Society of Georgia is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the State of Georgia through establishing and promoting ties and programs in the areas of business, culture, education, and building friendship through social exchange.

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