



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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Press Release

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December 2, 2009

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JACL ASSISTS JAPAN EMBASSY IN DOLL PRESENTATION

Washington, D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the United States, assisted the Embassy of Japan in the presentation of a new doll donated to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (L.D.S. or Mormon) Washington, D.C. Temple Visitors Center. The Japanese doll has been placed on one of the Christmas trees adorning the Visitors Center throughout the holiday season.

The L.D.S. Temple Visitors Center has been a showcase attraction for the Christmas holiday season in the Washington, D.C. area since 1978. In addition to a life size nativity on the grounds, the Visitors Center features 500,000 lights, live musical performances every evening, an International Creche Exhibit with over 100 nativity sets, and several festive trees decorated in International themes with decorations from various countries.

The doll which had originally represented Japan was showing signs of wear so it was replaced by the new doll donated by the Japan Embassy. The doll named Sakura was created by Japanese master doll maker, Akiko Keene of Maryland, who teaches Japanese doll making. The Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America. Mr. Hideo Fukushima, Minister for Public Affairs for the Japan Embassy, was instrumental in securing the new doll for the Visitors Center.

National Executive Director of the JACL, Floyd Mori, presented the doll early in December to the Directors of the Visitors Center, Elder Robert Rich and Sister Rich. Ann Santini, Director of Church International Affairs in Washington, D.C. was present as was Sister Hayasaka, a young sister missionary for the L.D.S. Church from Sendai, Japan.

The Washington D.C. Temple is a familiar landmark in the nation's capital. The month long Festival of Lights has become a top attraction and a Christmas tradition for many people. Visitors include International Diplomats, Members of Congress, media, representatives of various faiths, L.D.S. Church members, local residents, and others from around the world.

Anyone living or visiting in the Washington, D.C. area is invited to enjoy the Festival of Lights and exhibits during the holiday season. Daily film presentations are also shown, including the 30 minute film, *Mr. Kruger's Christmas* starring Jimmy Stewart. All events are presented by the L.D.S. Church to the public free of charge. Those wanting more information on the musical performance schedule or directions may visit online: www.dctemplelights.lds.org.

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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), established in 1929, is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization. To learn more about the JACL or to join the JACL, please visit www.jacl.org.