



**Press Release**

**報道資料**

***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Mourns the Passing of Ambassador Howard Baker**

*Former Tennessee Senator and U.S. Ambassador to Japan was a true friend to the ACCJ*

**June 27, 2014**— Members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) grieve the loss of a long-time friend in the passing of former Tennessee Senator and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker. ACCJ representatives met often with the late ambassador during his tenure leading the U.S. Mission to Japan from 2001 to 2005.

Ambassador Baker was recognized for his outstanding service to the U.S.-Japan commercial relationship by the ACCJ as its "Person of the Year" for 2004.

On learning the news, ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki said, "We were saddened to hear about the passing of Ambassador Howard Baker. Ambassador Baker had a distinguished career of service to the American people and was a true statesman, really one of the giants of American politics of his generation. We remember him for his warmth and wit and appreciate the close relationship he had with our organization and the many friends he had among our members. He was well known in the Chamber for demonstrating keen knowledge of the Japanese business environment and a deep commitment to the relationship between Japan and the United States.

"Ambassador Baker regularly noted that "Ambassador Mansfield is often remembered for saying that our bilateral relationship is the most important relationship in the world 'bar none'," adding that the relationship required careful maintenance. He did a great job of maintenance and we all can learn by following his example."

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## **About ACCJ**

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) was established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American companies and has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. Consisting mainly of executives from American companies, currently the ACCJ has members representing 1,000 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan, business organizations, and others, the ACCJ promotes activities that help achieve its mission of further developing commerce between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the international business environment in Japan. The ACCJ's more than 60 committees represent a variety of industries and make policy recommendations through advocacy tools such as viewpoints, public comments and white papers. The ACCJ holds approximately 500 events and seminars a year, many of which focus on government policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable events and CSR activities.

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