

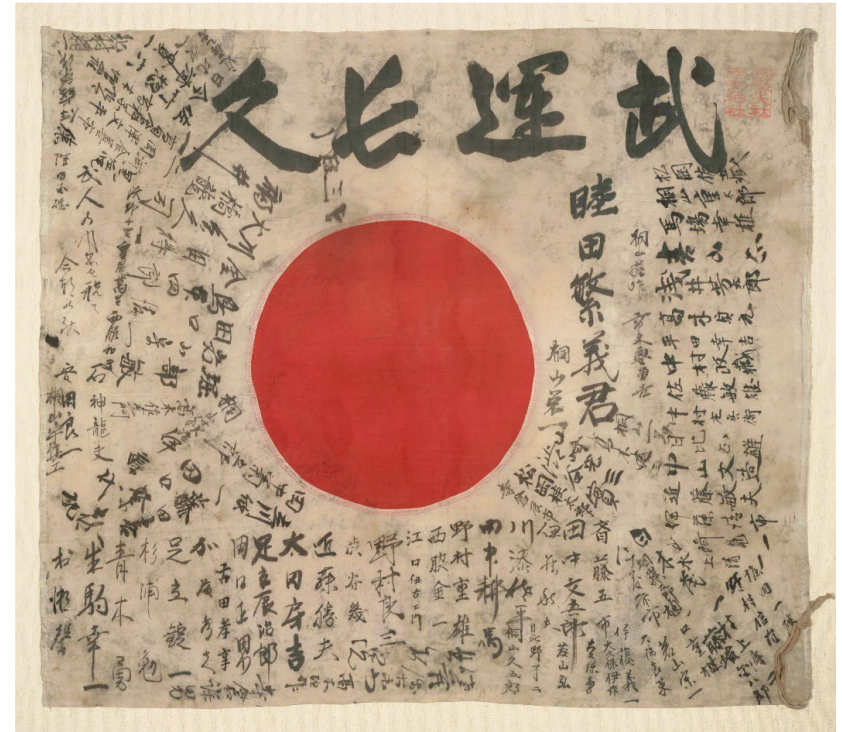
The Mutsuda Family



Mutsuda family portrait, with Japanese Soldier Shigeyoshi Mutsuda holding his Yosegaki Hinomaru or 'Good Luck' flag.

Japanese 'Good Luck' Flag Repatriation Ceremony

July 20, 2023
9:00 am



USS Lexington Museum
2914 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas

Presented by:
USS Lexington Museum
OBON SOCIETY



The “Yosegaki Hinomaru” Japanese Flag



A flag donated to the USS Lexington Museum in 1994 was recently identified as belonging to a Japanese soldier named Shigeyoshi Mutsuda, killed in action during World War II. Known as Yosegaki Hinomaru, or Good Luck Flags, these types of flags were signed by family and friends of Japanese service members prior to leaving home for war. For Japanese families, the Good Luck Flags are often all that remains of their loved ones killed in action, and the return of the flag is seen as the return of their family member's remains.

USS Lexington Museum is working in partnership with the OBON SOCIETY to repatriate the flag back to Japan for the flag to be reunited with the soldier's surviving family members. OBON SOCIETY is a non-profit organization that over the past 13 years has repatriated more than 500 flags back to Japanese families and communities. The organization's founders, Rex and Keiko Ziak, will act as representatives of the family to accept the flag and bring their long-lost patriarch home, including a ceremonial reuniting with his wife who recently passed at the age of 102. Representatives from the USS Lexington Museum will accompany OBON SOCIETY to escort the flag on its journey back to Japan and the family.

OBON SOCIETY

Located in Astoria, Oregon, OBON SOCIETY is a non-profit humanitarian effort dedicated to the pursuit of peace by healing veterans and their families through personal connections. OBON has repatriated more than 500 flags back to Japan's families and communities. They are currently working on more than 900 items that will hopefully be returned to Japan. They can be reached at <http://obonsociety.org>, contact@obonsociety.org

USS Lexington Museum

The nation's longest-serving World War II Essex Class aircraft carrier, USS Lexington is a valuable national treasure having played a significant role in the nation's defense for nearly 50 years. In 1992, USS Lexington arrived in Corpus Christi and has since served as a naval aviation museum, educational facility, and popular area tourist attraction. The USS Lexington Museum strives to instill pride and patriotism in the public, particularly the youth, through displays, ceremonies, and educational programs that emphasize the heroism and sacrifice of those who have served in the U.S. military. Visit usslexington.com for more information.

Program

Music by the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi

**Master of Ceremonies
Steve Banta**

Executive Director, USS Lexington Museum
Welcome and Introductions
Purpose of Program

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Color-Guard

Japanese National Anthem
United States National Anthem

Chaplain LT Mara Morhouse
Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Chaplain
Invocation

Moment of Silence and Meditation

Speakers

Steve Banta, Executive Director
USS Lexington Museum

Mr. Hirofumi MURABAYASHI, Consul General
Japanese Consul-General Office, Houston

Rex Ziak, Co-founder and President
OBON SOCIETY

Keiko Ziak, Co-founder and Treasurer
OBON SOCIETY

Bethany Glenn, Board Member
OBON SOCIETY

Removal of the Yosegaki Hinomaru
from the Exhibit Display Room

Presentation of the Yosegaki Hinomaru to OBON SOCIETY

Closing Remarks

Chaplain LT Mara Morhouse
Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Chaplain
Benediction

Moment of Silence and Meditation