



SASAKAWA USA

Dr. John Hamre
c/o Sang Joo Kim
Institute of Corean-American Studies
Washington, DC

Dear John,

November 14, 2017

Congratulations on receiving the Liberty Award from the Institute for Corean-American Studies. Although not with you to cheer in person, I am raising a glass from far away.

There are few Americans who have been as steadfast as you in supporting the US-Korean Alliance, from your time working in the Congress, through your service as Deputy Secretary of Defense, to your leadership of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. It is leadership that makes the differences in strong alliances, and you have provided it at every turn in the recent history of the US-Korea Alliance. That Alliance in turn has protected the security of the Republic of Korea, the interests of the United States in Northeast Asia, and contributed to the prosperity of both nations.

Beyond official responsibilities, you have been a great personal friend of both the country, and of many Koreans. You have made the long trip to visit the Republic of Korea many times, and have hosted Korean friends here in the United States with warmth and hospitality.

These are testing times for the Alliance, but thanks to the support and contributions over the years of leaders like you, I am confident that it has the strength to maintain peace and security on the Peninsula.

With warmest wishes and greatest respect,

Dennis Blair
Admiral, US Navy (retired)