



ARKANSAS
SECRETARY OF STATE
Mark Martin

Secretary Martin Presents Diamond Award to New Honorary Japanese Consul

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Secretary Martin Presents Arkansas Diamond Award to New Honorary Japanese Consul

Citizen-Diplomat Mary Zunick Broadening International Relations for Arkansas



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(LITTLE ROCK, ARK.) – Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin recently presented an Arkansas Diamond Award to Mary Zunick, of Hot Springs. Zunick serves as cultural affairs manager for Visit Hot Springs and has served as Director of the Hot Springs Sister City Program for 10 years. In February, she was named Honorary Consul of Japan for the State of Arkansas.

Arkansas has enjoyed excellent relations with Japan for many years. As honorary consul, Zunick hopes to help increase cultural and economic opportunities around the state.

Martin and Zunick discussed their thoughts on citizen-led diplomacy at the state and local levels and the benefits those efforts can achieve for cultural understanding, economics, and lessening conflicts around the world.

The sister city program in Hot Springs, a long-standing partnership with the city of Hanamaki, Japan, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. Zunick will be leading a delegation there this fall to mark the occasion.

Also present for the award presentation were Robert Zunick, Mary's husband; Takuya Onozaki, a Japanese artist who is visiting through the sister city artist exchange program; and Henry Jones, director of the Arkansas Sister Cities program and senior advisor to Secretary Martin for international, military, and federal relations.

The text of the award reads:

To whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

Know that I, Mark Martin, Secretary of State of the Great State of Arkansas, by the authority of my office and on behalf of our citizens do proudly present this award to

Mary Zunick

In special recognition of her appointment as Arkansas's first Honorary Consul for Japan, resulting from her years of dedication to the Hot Springs Sister Cities Commission. Motivated by her desire to promote world peace and better educate the youth of Hot Springs, she built a curriculum recognized as Sister Cities International Best Overall Program which was one of only four American initiatives to be honored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Because of her passion and dedication to the program, support has grown for language and cultural exchange in local schools and nurtures a vibrant and commercial relationship. Ms. Zunick also received recognition for youth leadership and economic development.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Office of the Secretary of State to be affixed at the Arkansas State Capitol this Twenty-Fifth Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand-eighteen and the year of statehood, One Hundred and Eighty-One.

Signed,

MARK MARTIN

Arkansas Secretary of State

About the Arkansas Diamond Award:

The Arkansas Diamond Award is the highest honor one can receive from the Secretary of State's office. The person who receives this award has made significant contributions to his or her community through their time, talent and dedication. Their service is one of exemplary quality. Having made an outstanding accomplishment in a field of service may also qualify for this award. To qualify, one must be 18 years of age or older and a current resident of Arkansas.

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