

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

1973 was an interesting year in the United States. Some of you in this room were not born yet. Here are some 1973 facts:

- * Richard Nixon was the president of the United States.
- * Skylab, the first American space station, was launched.
- * A dozen eggs cost 45 cents, a gallon of milk cost \$1.31, a first class stamp cost 8 cents, a gallon of regular gas cost 40 cents, and a new car only cost \$3,200.

The best thing that happened in 1973, however, was the sister city relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa. Torrance's Mayor then was Ken Miller. Former Mayor Ken

Miller sends his greetings to all of you. He remembers the day he signed the documents with Mayor Yamazawa forty five years ago.

Forty five years is a long time. Within these forty five years, so much has happened to give us good memories of this sister city relationship. Torrance and Kashiwa have carried on our mutually-established programs with such dedication and such success that we are the envy of some sister city organizations in the south bay of California. What is the reason for our success? It is all of you here tonight and more back home who are not here. It is the many volunteers on both sides that are keeping this relationship going with such gusto and with such positive feelings.

When the students participate in their program, they learn so much about each other's culture and the way of life. Adults also need to do that. Anniversary trips like these foster learning, respect, and understanding of each other's culture and way of life.

President Eisenhower was forward-thinking when he started the Sister City Program in 1956. Striving for peace throughout the world is an ongoing project, and the Sister City Program is a good way of fostering peace.

All of us from Torrance are so happy to be here this weekend to make new and renew friendships and to learn about this beautiful country of Japan. Thank you so much for hosting us. We appreciate all of you!

Finally, all of us from Torrance extend our heartfelt sympathy, concern, and best wishes to all the residents throughout Japan who were affected by the recent typhoons and earthquakes.

Thank you very much.