

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN MIAMI

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Consul General Ken Okaniwa (left) and Mr. Randal Baker

Boynton Beach Resident Randal Baker Has Received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

On November 3rd, 2016, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2016 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Boynton Beach resident Randal Baker is one of the 96 foreign recipients, and he received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, one of the highest ranking civilian honors awarded to those from other countries. Baker is a client manager for Champion Solutions Group and Treasurer of the board of trustees of Morikami, Inc., the governing body of the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach.

On February 23, 2017 Mr. Randal Baker was presented with the decoration by Consul General of Japan Ken Okaniwa at the opening ceremony of Morikami's latest exhibit Deco Japan. After the decoration 2 congratulatory letters from US Congressman Ted

Deutch and State Representative Irv Slosberg were read. The award ceremony took place at the Morikami Theatre with the participation of 240 people, including Palm Beach County's Director of the Parks and Recreation Department Eric Call and Director of the Special Facilities Division Paul Connell, along with several members of the Board of Trustees.

"Volunteering his time as a board member of the Morikami Museum, Randal has worked tirelessly to expand and support this important institution," said Ken Okaniwa, Consul General of Japan for Florida. "The authentic Japanese cultural experiences the museum offers deepens the understanding between us as people and strengthens the ties between our two countries."

A prior president of the Museum's board who first joined the board in 1995, Baker has been responsible for providing strategic direction and operational guidance for the museum as well as supporting fundraising activities. By developing a strong relationship between the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department and Morikami Inc., he created the foundation for strategic museum expansion plans. In addition, he was instrumental in the Morikami Museum's capital campaign which updated and expanded the on-site Cornell Café and greatly enhanced the Bonsai exhibit.

Baker received his MBA from Nova Southeastern University and holds an undergraduate degree in computer science and mathematics from Purdue University.

For more information about the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, visit http://www.miami.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html or call (305) 530-9090.

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