

April 30, 2018

## 2018 Spring Conferment of Decoration

On April 29, 2018, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2018 Spring Imperial Decorations. In Florida, Mr. David W. Schmidt was conferred *The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays*.

➤ **Mr. David W. Schmidt**

**Decoration:** The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

**Major Titles:**

*President of the Sister Cities Committee*, City of Delray Beach

*Former President of the Board*, Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

**Summary of Contributions:** Developing and promoting Japanese garden culture in the United States, and Sister City relations.

For almost 30 years, David Schmidt has contributed to mutual understanding and friendly relations between the United States and Japan.

Between 1985 and 2012, Mr. Schmidt held several important positions as a member of the Board for the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. As President of the Board, Mr. Schmidt led an initiative to maintain and develop the museum's gardens and educational programs during the Great Recession without cutting staff employment.

As the President of the Sister Cities Committee of Delray Beach, a volunteer organization, Mr. Schmidt oversaw the establishment of a high school exchange program between students from Delray Beach and Miyazu City in Japan in 1999. The program has since gained momentum, and for the past six years the two cities have alternated sending a group of students to each other for a 9 day stay with host families, and to attend high school with their host students.