

Message on the 80th Anniversary of Winning World War II

August 14, 2025

On August 14, 1945, the Allied Powers accepted Imperial Japan's unconditional surrender in World War II, delivering a hard-fought American victory in the Pacific and bringing the deadliest war in human history to a decisive close. Eighty years later, our Nation remembers freedom's triumph over tyranny, and we proudly honor the truth that victory was made possible only by the unmatched courage, grit, and sacrifice of the fearless patriots of the United States Armed Forces.

After Imperial Japan's unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor, America responded with overwhelming force, launching a two-front fight against totalitarianism. In the Pacific—across vast oceans and unforgiving terrain—American servicemen undertook one of the most grueling campaigns in military history. From the turning point at Midway to the fierce battles on Biak Island and the sands of Iwo Jima, our troops pushed forward against a ruthless enemy, island by island, driven by duty, honor, and an unrelenting devotion to the cause of freedom.

The path to peace came at a staggering cost. More than 100,000 Americans perished in the Pacific Theater alone. It was only through the commitment and patriotism of the "Greatest Generation" that the Japanese empire was defeated, ensuring that the world would be spared from the oppressive clutches of destruction and tyranny and that America would remain a beacon of liberty and hope for the entire world for future generations. Today, Japan has become our strongest ally in the Pacific, hosting more than 50,000 American troops who stand guard against new totalitarian regimes and their expansive ambitions.

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of winning World War II, we reflect on the sacrifices and bravery of our Nation's troops who secured our freedom and victory. We remember with deep reverence the fearless warriors who raised our beautiful Stars and Stripes atop distant islands. Above all, we pay tribute to all those who stormed foreign shores under enemy fire to inflict the full fury of American might to defend our interests, our people, and our beloved homeland against forces of evil.

Their enduring triumph reminds us that peace is never promised, but is earned through sacrifice, defended with strength, and kept alive by those willing to risk their lives for the survival of our freedom and our beloved way of life. Guided by this vision, my administration remains steadfastly committed to upholding a foreign policy of peace through strength to ensure that our citizens are always put first, our sovereignty is always defended, and our Nation remains the greatest country on earth.

May God bless the memory of those who fell, and may we always remain worthy of the freedom they valiantly secured.

Categories: Letters and Messages : World War II, 80th anniversary of victory, message.

Subjects: Japan, defense relationship with U.S.; U.S. servicemembers, service and dedication; World War II, 80th anniversary of victory.

DCPD Number: DCPD202500852.