

**Commemorative Service on the Anniversary of the
Battle of the Coral Sea
11 May 2018
Australian-American Memorial, Blamey Square, Canberra**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Battle of the Coral Sea was a pivotal event in the history of naval warfare, marking the first time that aircraft carriers engaged one another in battle. Those carriers, and the vessels that accompanied them, were extensively damaged and many casualties were suffered on both sides.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I wish to express my sincerest condolences to the souls of the deceased of that conflict.

Japan will never forget the immeasurable damage and suffering that occurred during the war.

Japan is resolutely resolved to never again repeat the tragedy of war, for it emerged after the war as a free, democratic and peaceful nation, governed by the rule of law.

Australia and the United States, by opening up the path to Japan for reconciliation with the postwar global community, made an invaluable contribution to the peace and prosperity that we now enjoy.

This is something that we Japanese shall never forget.

During the visit by Prime Minister Turnbull to Japan in January this year, the leaders of both countries reaffirmed the continued importance of co-operation between Australia and Japan to secure an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, stable, and prosperous, based upon an international order founded on the rule of law.

They also reaffirmed the enduring importance of the respective alliances of Australia and Japan with the United States that underpin this co-operation.

Japan stands side by side with allies and partners such as the United States and Australia as we strive to ensure the continued peace and stability of the region and the global community.

I therefore offer my heartfelt prayers in memory of the fallen. Thank you for your kind attention.