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**Mr. Dennis W. Archer chosen for conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon,
by the Emperor of Japan**

April 29, 2013 – In recognition of his significant contribution to strengthening ties between the United States and Japan, Mr. Dennis W. Archer, former Mayor of Detroit, has been chosen to be honored with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, by His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan. The Government of Japan made the formal announcement today, declaring the foreign recipients of the Spring 2013 Imperial Decorations.

During his term as mayor from 1994-2001, Mr. Archer cultivated ties with the Japanese business community in the state of Michigan, and worked to promote friendship between the U.S. and Japan. His achievements factoring into selection for his award include: his recognition of the social and economic contributions made by the Japanese business community in metro Detroit, his promotion of understanding and goodwill between Japan and the U.S., his participation in various international conferences in Japan, and his support of the Japan America Society of Greater Detroit and Windsor (now Michigan and Southwestern Ontario).

Mr. Archer was the first Detroit mayor to attend meetings with the Japan Business Society of Detroit, showing his high esteem of the Japanese community. His effort in opposition to a post-9/11 ban on drivers' licenses for non-citizens was of great benefit to the Japanese nationals in Michigan. He also promoted bilateral relations with the planting of cherry blossom trees on Belle Isle.

Mr. Archer has been directly involved in activities in Japan, including his leadership of a trade and investment mission in 1995, sending exhibits on loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts to Detroit's sister-city Toyota City, also in 1995, and supporting the performance of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in Japan in 1998. He has also supported bilateral education exchange between Japan and Michigan.

Mr. Archer participated in various conferences between Japan and the U.S., including mayoral/chamber of commerce conferences held in Japan in 1995 and 1999. He also co-represented the U.S. with the Mayor of Honolulu at an environmental conference in Tokyo in 1995, and attended an Asian-Pacific environmental summit in Hawaii in 1999.

After his term as mayor, Mr. Archer served as chairman of the Japan America Society (JAS) of Greater Detroit and Windsor from 2009-2010, continuing to encourage international relations. He led the 20th anniversary general meeting of the JAS and also participated in the 50th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Detroit and Toyota City. He also discussed economic development and sustainability at a Japan-U.S. Midwest joint-conference in Detroit, co-hosted by JAS and Detroit.

Detroit Consul General of Japan Mr. Kuninori Matsuda had these words: *"I am delighted by the announcement of Mr. Dennis Archer's decoration, and congratulate him for his accomplishments. His endeavors to promote U.S.-Japan relations and to further Detroit's role as an international partner for progress are reflected in this award. The Japanese community and companies here in Michigan have benefitted from Mr. Archer's support, and in effect, the local community has received more recognition from Japan. This is a special day for Detroit."*

Mr. Dennis W. Archer currently serves as Chairman Emeritus of Dickinson Wright law firm in Detroit and has been praised as one of the top lawyers in the U.S. He also served as Chairman of the Detroit Regional Chamber, was the first African-American President of the American Bar Association, and served as Associate Justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. Archer received his J.D. from Detroit College of Law, and B.S. from Western Michigan University.

Mr. Archer will be honored in Detroit at an official conferment ceremony and celebration on June 3, 2013.

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Fact sheet attached.

About the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit was established in 1993 as a result of the increasing number of Japanese residents and businesses in Michigan and Ohio. Its mission includes serving the 19,500 Japanese residents in this two-state jurisdiction, promoting trade and business development between Japan and the U.S., and nurturing strong bilateral relations through various educational and cultural activities.

Fact sheet:

In conferring the Order of the Rising Sun upon Mr. Dennis W. Archer, the following achievements were considered:

I. As Mayor of Detroit, 1994 - 2001

1. Promotion of co-operation with ethnic communities in the Detroit area, including the Japanese

- a. Archer recognized the social contributions made by the Japanese business community in metro Detroit through the many employment opportunities it provides, as well as through social corporate responsibility the community demonstrated.
- b. Archer attended meetings with the Japan Business Society of Detroit, a first for a Detroit mayor.
- c. Japanese nationals benefitted from his efforts against a ban on drivers' licenses for non-citizens after 9/11.
- d. He promoted the re-planting of Japanese cherry blossom trees on Belle Isle as a symbol of promoting bilateral relations.

2. Promotion of mutual understanding and goodwill between Japan and the U.S.

- a. Archer led a trade and investment mission to Japan in 1995, and visited Japan many times.
- b. He supported an exchange of art exhibits from the Detroit Institute of Arts on loan to the art museum in Detroit's sister-city Toyota City in 1995, and promoted the performance of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in Toyota City in 1998.
- c. He also supported bilateral education exchange.

3. Participation in various conferences between Japan and the U.S.

- a. Archer was a proactive participant in mayoral/chamber of commerce conferences held in Yokohama in 1995 and in Kitakyushu, Japan in 1999.
- b. As Mayor of Detroit, Archer co-represented the U.S. with the Mayor of Honolulu at a 1995 environmental conference in Tokyo. In 1999 he also attended an Asian-Pacific environmental summit in Hawaii.

II. As Chairman of the Japan America Society (JAS) of Greater Detroit and Windsor, 2009-2010

- a. Archer led the 20th anniversary general meeting of the JAS (renamed Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario).
- b. He also participated in the 50th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Detroit and Toyota City, co-hosted by JAS and Detroit.
- c. At a Japan-U.S. Midwest joint-conference in Detroit, Archer discussed topics such as economic development and sustainability.



Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Order of the Rising Sun,
Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon