Press Release

San Diegans Prepare to Celebrate International Peace and Humanity Day

City joins 6,700 municipalities worldwide; local events Aug. 5 and 7 commemorate 70 years of freedom from nuclear conflict

SAN DIEGO -- August 4, 2014 – <u>San Diego-WISH</u>, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting global peace and freedom from nuclear weapons, will celebrate its 2015 International Peace and Humanity Day on Wed., Aug. 5, 2015. In observing the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks that ended World War II, organizers hope to turn public attention toward a future free from the specter of nuclear conflict.

This year's events occur in two parts, both organized by San Diego-WISH, an acronym for "Worldwide Initiative to Safeguard Humanity." Simultaneous events are taking place globally as part of the "Mayors for Peace" initiative involving more than 6,700 cities worldwide.

"World War II started and ended with horrific destruction," said SD-WISH Committee Chair Akiko Mikamo, whose parents survived the Hiroshima attack just one-half mile from the epicenter. "Today, we celebrate the fact that the United States and Japan are not only at peace, but close allies. We want to show our experience as an example of friendships growing against impossible odds. Above all, we want to make people envision peace in a different way – a way that makes the concept of war obsolete."

The first event occurs at 4:00pm PDT, Aug. 5, at the Yokohama Friendship Bell on Shelter Island (1402 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego, CA 92106). It will include a ceremonial presentation of 1,000 origami cranes in a symbolic wish for governments worldwide to move toward abandoning nuclear weapons and eliminating the threat of nuclear war. Messages of peace will be read from Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki; Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui; Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue and Los Angeles Consul General for Japan Harry Horinouchi. Additionally, the audience will hear from longtime San Diego resident Mike Kawamura, a Hiroshima survivor who was two years old at the time of the bombing, and will attend the event in person.

The second event occurs Friday, Aug. 7, from 6:00pm to 8:45pm PDT at the Coronado City Council Chambers and Community Pool (1825 Strand Way, Coronado, CA 92118) with a floating of illuminated paper lanterns in a silent prayer for world peace. All events are open to the public at no admission charge, with arts, crafts, entertainment, food and refreshments available.

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