

Statement of George Glass
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan
Submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
March 13, 2025

Thank you, Senator Hagerty for the kind introduction. It is an honor to follow in your footsteps and call on you for your advice, support, and friendship. Thank you for your long history of service to this country, to the great State of Tennessee and to the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the Committee, I am humbled to stand before you as President Donald J. Trump's nominee to be Ambassador to Japan. I am grateful for President Trump and Secretary Rubio's strength on the global stage. I pledge to follow their lead, always putting America first and unabashedly promoting the interests of the American people.

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the love of my life, Mary, who flew in just last night to be with me today. I would like to acknowledge and thank my mother and stepfather, Mary and Jay, as well as Mary's parents Joe and Laurie, for the values they have instilled in us and that I would carry forward as Ambassador if confirmed. I'm thankful for my three sons and six grandchildren who have sent their prayers and best wishes from afar. And I want to recognize my father, who watches over me always – and on this day especially – from heaven.

We stand at the dawn of a new golden era in U.S.-Japan relations. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima and the end of WWII, it is remarkable to reflect on the evolution of this great bilateral relationship. America and Japan are now the strongest of allies. Japan is the top foreign investor in the United States, supporting a million U.S. jobs, 500,000 of them in manufacturing. Cultural and educational ties bind our two peoples through decades of bilateral exchanges, joint research, and film, music, art and food. The U.S.-Japan Alliance, celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, is the cornerstone of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. And our shared values facilitate cooperation in the G7, the Quad, trilateral engagements with South Korea and the Philippines, and more.

There are certainly challenges. I've always said it's one thing to manage your relationship with an adversary. It is another to manage your relationship with a friend. If confirmed, I would have tough conversations on tariffs and reducing our trade deficit with Japan. I would make sure Japan continues to increase its support for the defense of the region, our Alliance and our troops to ensure peace and security in the Indo-Pacific. And I would ensure we are uncompromising in our efforts to protect American citizens abroad.

As Ambassador to Portugal, I fought for American interests every day and earned the respect of the Portuguese President and Prime Minister. I was honored to receive the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator, the highest honor ever received by an American. Thanks to the fantastic work of my team at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon I was also honored to receive the State Department's Sue Cobb Award, granted annually to the most effective and impactful non-career Ambassador. If confirmed, I would work just as hard, leading a group of deeply experienced and dedicated diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and five consulates in Japan, on behalf of the American people.

The opportunities are vast. Japan has committed to reduce its trade deficit with us and its reliance on Russia by purchasing U.S. liquefied natural gas. If confirmed, I would work with our allies as they make good on that promise. Japan has committed to extend the upward trajectory of its defense budget, building capabilities that advance both our national security goals and strengthen deterrence in the region. I would work with Japan to fulfill that promise as well. And Japan has committed to build supply chain resilience, particularly in critical minerals, to protect both our countries from economic coercion by China. I would work with Japan to make good on that promise while deepening collaboration on cutting edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, and advanced semiconductor manufacturing.

If confirmed, I would be grateful for the chance to work with the people of Japan, who 80 years ago launched an economic miracle and a vast societal transformation that brought them to where they are today - the world's 4th largest economy, the top investor in 39 of our 50 states, and our most impactful global partner and ally in promoting peace and stability in the region. Japan's ancient traditions and modern innovations will shine brightly on the global stage at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka. If confirmed, I would ensure the funding

generously provided by Congress for the impressive USA Pavilion is used to showcase all that makes our country great on that global stage.

I would like to close by saying this nomination as Ambassador to Japan is not just about business for me. It is deeply personal. My eldest son, Gordon, and his wife Giau have lived in Japan for the past 13 years. My granddaughter, who is now 6.5 years old, was sworn in as a U.S. citizen by Senator Hagerty when he was the Ambassador to Japan. She is a product of the Japanese system: taught to be kind, thoughtful, and sharp as a whip. She embraces the best qualities of both of our countries. If confirmed, I would work tirelessly to make the U.S.-Japan relationship even stronger than I found it, with the blessing of time with and support of my family along the way.

Distinguished Senators, thank you again for your time today. If confirmed, it would be the honor of my life to once again serve the greatest country in the world, the United States of America. Thank you.