



Proclamation
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO
Recognizing the visit of Mayor Ichiro Kanke of the City of Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan

WHEREAS, The Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony was created in 1869 about two miles south of the historic gold rush town of Coloma, in El Dorado County, by 22 Japanese colonists fleeing a devastating civil war between the Emperor of Japan and the last of the Samurai Lords during the Meiji Restoration; and

WHEREAS, The Colony prospered with the planting of 50,000 mulberry trees for silkworm farming, 140,000 tea plants and large quantities of bamboo roots for food, building and crafts and participated in the San Francisco Horticultural Fair in September, 1870 with displays of tea plants, paper plants and plant oils; and

WHEREAS, One of the young Japanese colonists, Okei Ito, died at the age of 19 in the spring of 1871 in the County of El Dorado; and

WHEREAS, Okei has been spiritually enshrined in the hearts and minds of many Japanese and Japanese Americans, a marble headstone marks the grave inscribed in both English and Japanese "In Memory of Okei, Died 1871, Age 19 Years, a Japanese Girl"; and

WHEREAS, In 1957, a second memorial was dedicated to Okei on a mountain plateau overlooking the City of Aizu Wakamatsu in northern Japan; and

WHEREAS, On June 7, 1969, as a focal event in the celebration of the centennial year of Japanese immigration to America, a plaque and memorial garden was dedicated by Japanese Consul General Shima and then Governor Ronald Reagan. The plaque designates the site of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony as a California Historical Landmark No. 815; and

Now Therefore Be It Proclaimed that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado extend a warm welcome to Mayor Kanke and fellow citizens of Aizu Wakamatsu recognizing a special historical connection between El Dorado County and Japan through the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony.

Passed by unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 30th day of October, 2007.

Attest:
Cindy Keck
Clerk of the Board
by:

Supervisors Dupray, Baumann, Sweeney,
Briggs, and Santiago

Deputy Clerk

Chair, Board of Supervisors