

unit, return them to the sculpture studio, and hand stack all four panels to make sure there was no loss during the firing process. They are 99.9% successful. The entire project is hand packaged, marking each pallet for assembly.

I am always at the job site to supervise the installation, and on this project I was very lucky to have an excellent brick mason to work with.

Often I am not around to see the response from viewers as they approach the art space. The feedback that I received from the architect, however, was delightful and very satisfying. He assured me the project was well received.

The impact of some of your work is very emotional. For example, the brick sculpted wall and bronze figure you created for your National POW memorial is deeply moving. Describe how you tapped into the POW experience to create this combination of brick and bronze sculptures.

The National POW Memorial was dedicated in 1996. The project took seven years. However, my work didn't take that long. It was the Congressional fundraising process that took time. It was quite a privilege to have been chosen for this project. I was selected by the National Park Service because of my combined skills in the execution of brick and bronze sculpture.

Again, the privilege was very special, because I worked with the national POW organization. A committee of ex-POWs provided their insights and some horrific stories. The memorial I was commissioned to design is located in Andersonville, Georgia, site of a former Civil War stockade that confined tens of thousands of Union prisoners. In one fifteen-month period, 13,000 POWs died. Someone recommended that I read *Andersonville*, a history of the prison, and from that source I learned that the most serious problem was lack of access to water. A curious event occurred once after a heavy rain: a spring erupted in the compound, but the water was flowing into the dead zone, close to the stockade wall, and prisoners would be shot if they approached that area. That stream, which flows to this day, is called "Providence." The stories people told me were often brutal. When it came time for me to tour the museum, I lasted about one minute before I had to leave—all the stories I had been told resurfaced.

I chose to feature water in my concept. The bronze figure in front of the sculpted brick panels has water trickling from his hand. The three panels are naturalistic, depicting scenes of capture, incarceration, and isolation. I realized that the bronze figure had even more significance when a member of the committee, a POW of the Vietnam era, told me his story. "I was imprisoned in [one of] the so-called 'tiger cages.' I had been captive for some time before I was allowed out to go to the stream and wash myself. The person I saw reflected in the water was not me but the emaciated figure you depict in the bronze figure. I will write you a letter and tell you more of my story." He did write, but it took several

months before I received the letter. He opened it with, "I thought I was over the experience and had successfully worked through it, but that was not the case; that is why it took so long." For me, writing about the project now brings back the memories and tears of the time spent on it. I met some wonderful people and got just a flavor of what it is like to sacrifice for this country.



Terrigena sed Infinitus

Taiwan Elects First Woman President

Alice Frederick

Earlier this spring, Taiwan—also known as the Republic of China—elected its first woman president, Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic People's Party (DPP). In addition to being the first woman president, Tsai is also the island's first unmarried president and its first president with Taiwanese aboriginal ancestry.

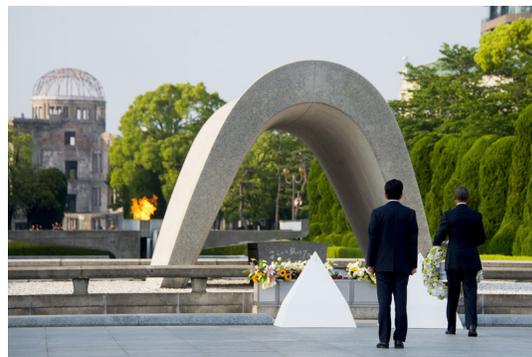


The DPP is one of the two largest political parties in Taiwan. The other party, the Kuomintang (KMT), was founded on the island in 1947, when its leader, Chiang Kai-shek, fled mainland China during the Chinese Civil War and established a military dictatorship in Taiwan. Since then, the KMT has historically dominated Taiwanese politics, even after its gradual democratization and the lifting of one-party rule in the 1990s. President Tsai is the second DPP president to be elected.

Although its administration functions wholly apart from mainland China's, Taiwan is not recognized as a sovereign state by most states, including China, which maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory. Taiwan also does not have a seat in the United Nations. Nevertheless, it has the largest economy of any country outside the UN and sustains strong economic relations around the world. Taiwan has official diplomatic ties with twenty-one states and unofficial ties with many more.

Obama and Abe Visit Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park

On May 27, U.S. President Barack Obama and Japanese President Shinzo Abe laid a wreath near a monument in the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park. Obama is the first U.S. president to visit Hiroshima, site of the world's first nuclear detonation on a civilian



population, since World War II. He used the occasion to speak of the urgency of making peace instead of waging war. "The world was forever changed

here, but today the children of this city will go through their day in peace. What a precious thing that is. It is worth protecting, and then extending to every child. That is a future we can choose, a future in which Hiroshima and Nagasaki are known not as the dawn of atomic warfare but as the start of our own moral awakening." In conjunction with the visit, NPR interviewed Setsuko Thurlow, who survived the Hiroshima blast as a 13-year-old student and went on to dedicate her life to peacemaking and opposing nuclear proliferation. For more on this story, see www.npr.org/2016/05/26/479635810/hiroshima-survivor-recalls-bombing-in-fight-to-achieve-nuclear-disarmament.