

- Welcome to Minnesota and thank you for coming!
- I'd like to thank Northwest Airlines and the Minnesota Office of Tourism for their hospitality as your hosts. I met with the Red Tail Club before and during our tourism and trade mission to Japan in 1999 – and I applaud the work it has done over the past 10 years.
- I can't stress how important Northwest's double daily flights are to both Tokyo and Minneapolis. We're grateful to you for supporting Minnesota as a travel destination – and to the thousands of Japanese visitors who come here every year to enjoy our natural and cultural amenities.
- I understand that you have a full itinerary, which includes the Mall of America. The mall is truly amazing. People from throughout the world come to visit it every day. Not only is it the largest mall in the United States, but it receives more visitors than Walt Disney World each year.
- I also hear that you're going to play golf at Hazeltine National. Hazeltine is the home of next year's PGA Championship.
- Minnesota has many wonderful golf courses, and I am sure once you play one of them, you'll want to highlight them in your travel programs.
- I thank you for coming to Minnesota and I hope you enjoy your stay.