

Paris American Club 75th Anniversary Luncheon

Proposition de discours – 1er Juin 2016

Dear John Bennett,

Dear Ambassador Hartley

Dear Friends,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here with you today for what promises to be a wonderful event, thanks to the great lunch in New York and dinner in Paris we are about to enjoy, but far more importantly, thanks to the wonderful people I look forward to seeing.

Unfortunately, the Consul general Mr. Bertrand Lortholary will not be able to be among us tonight, as he had to fly back to France for personal reasons.

Although the Paris American Club may be a non-diplomatic institution, it shares with the Consulate General of France a common mission: to preserve and strengthen the links uniting France and the United States. The Paris American Club does so by helping to build friendship between citizens of our two countries through events like today's luncheon, and many other activities. Since its foundation in 1940, the Paris American Club has done an outstanding job of gathering people from different fields to share the best of French and American national cultures, in the fields of diplomacy, business, education, and of course, the arts.

Today's luncheon will be truly special, as Ambassador Jane Hartley, a brilliant economist and an outstanding diplomat, has just addressed us from Paris.

This luncheon also serves to support an inspiring institution, as a portion of the proceeds will go to the School for International Studies, whose educational mission values the cultural awareness across disciplines with the aim of preparing students to be socially conscious leaders.

I would like to address special thanks to our host today, Mr. John Bennett. Dear John, you count among the close friends of the Consulate General of France.

We deeply appreciate and praise your efforts in continuing the old and prestigious tradition of "Sunday Dinners," first organized in the late 18th century by Benjamin Franklin. You have remarkable talent for choosing wonderful locations for the Paris American Club events, and today's lunch in this fabulous National Arts Club is no exception.

Without further ado, I wish all of you a very pleasant lunch.