

Ambassador Jane D. Hartley  
Remarks to the American Club of France  
Tuesday, June 1, 2016  
(As prepared for Delivery)

Good evening everyone!

Thank you so much, Joe, for that lovely introduction.

Thank you Consul General Lortholary for attending the luncheon, it's wonderful that you could join us. I want to also send my warmest thoughts to John Bennett and the Paris Club in New York!

I'm so pleased that you're able to hold these events simultaneously – it's such a perfect way to celebrate the strength of Franco-American relations on both sides of the Atlantic. But it's also a bit of a shame because it means I can't attend both, which I would have loved to do. As much as I love Paris, I will always be a proud New Yorker!

I'm thrilled that you are carrying on the tradition started by my illustrious predecessor, Benjamin Franklin. Starting in his time, during the tumultuous early days of our union, we Americans – and those who love us – have gathered in Paris to break bread and strengthen bonds.

While the official name has varied over the years, the spirit of generosity and fellowship has remained the same. It's that spirit that I'd like to pay tribute to today. For the American Club is not just a great way for American expats to get together and trade stories over drinks about developments in France (though that's

always fun, I admit). It's also a great venue for you all to explore how you can continue to enrich our bilateral relationship and deepen still further our ties.

I don't think I need to tell you that our official relationship is extremely close at the moment. We coordinate closely with our French government counterparts on a large range of issues, from counter-terrorism to climate change mitigation, from the refugee crisis to educational and professional mobility; from scientific cooperation to programs that increase trade and ensure that everyone gets a slice of the pie – and that the pie continues to grow./

We share so many common priorities and goals, in fact, that Secretary Kerry is a very frequent visitor! He comes often to meet with his counterpart – in fact, he'll be here again in a few days to participate in a meeting dealing with Middle East peace.

But equally important is the people-to-people diplomacy and business you all carry on daily, the deals and the friends you make. Our strong official ties wouldn't exist without the extensive private sector ties you are cementing in your work and personal lives.

So I thank you each of you gathered here tonight for the contributions that you make every single day, in countless ways, to our relationship. I wish you many more years of lunches and dinners together: as proud Americans, proud friends of the U.S., and keepers of the flame of the enduring, historic, and unique Franco-American friendship.

Thank you.

END SPEECH