



Fostering Franco-American friendship since 1940

November 11, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of the Paris American Club:

It is a great pleasure and a true honor to be with you this evening, as we celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this remarkable institution, a living symbol of the friendship between France and the United States. And what a meaningful date to do so on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the day when France and the United States, together with their allies, commemorate the Armistice that ended the First World War. It is a day to remember the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for liberty and peace, and to honor the bond that our nations have shared ever since.

When the Paris American Club was founded in 1940, the world was facing a time of deep uncertainty. And yet, as John Bennett once told me, those Americans who created the Club were also driven by nostalgia: nostalgia for the wonderful Parisian evenings of the Belle Époque, for the sound of jazz in Montparnasse, for the conversations of artists in Saint-Germain and Montmartre. With Paris under occupation, they wanted to recreate here, in New York, a bit of that unique spirit, that Parisian charm they loved so much. Inspired as well by Benjamin Franklin's legendary dinners in Passy, they knew that friendship and understanding are not built only in formal settings, but around a shared table, through conversation, ideas, and laughter.

Eighty-five years later, that same spirit continues to inspire you here in New York. Through your luncheons, dinners, conferences, and cultural gatherings, you nurture what our two nations hold most dear: curiosity, friendship, always with a tasty wine and a good cheese! You are, each in your own way, ambassadors of "bonne entente" between our two countries, and for that, France is deeply grateful.

Your commitment to education is equally remarkable. I had the pleasure of seeing some of you a few months ago at the Jérôme Lohez Scholarship ceremony, which you so generously support. Each year, this program gives young people from France, the United States, and beyond the chance to study abroad, to discover, to grow, and to build bridges that will last a lifetime. This generosity and openness to the world is also part of your identity at the club.

Tonight, we also take a moment to honor two exceptional individuals who embody the spirit of this Club. We pay tribute first to Myron Hurwitz, a devoted former president whose leadership and generosity left a lasting mark on your community. I understand his family is here tonight, and Francis Dubois will brilliantly put together all the words we want to hear to celebrate Myron's contribution to the club.

And we celebrate Caroline Lareuse, the first woman to join the Paris American Club, and a longtime friend of France as former Honorary Consul for New Jersey. Dear Caroline, your service as Honorary Consul represents what is most precious to us in the French network abroad. Our Honorary Consuls are our eyes and ears across the territory, the first link with the community, and the ones we call upon in times of need, whether to share safety information or simply to check on the well-being of our fellow citizens. It is a role that demands calm, empathy, and

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dedication. I am sure that you may have had some difficult nights, and that whenever a new storm is announced on the shores of New Jersey, you are relieved that someone else has to receive the calls now !  
Your rest is well deserved, and we thank you very much for your service.

Dear Caroline, dear Hurwitz family, dear Peter, thank you for your commitment to this historic club.

As we look toward the future, next year will be a milestone for both our nations: the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American independence, which is also, in many ways, the anniversary of our friendship, since France stood by America's side at its very beginning. It will also mark 140 years of the Statue of Liberty, that magnificent gift from the French People to New York, still shining today as a beacon of freedom and friendship.

So, on this 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, this November 11<sup>th</sup> and soon 250 years of independence, allow me to raise a symbolic toast:

- to eighty-five years of shared history and friendship,
- to the spirit of culture and generosity that unites us,
- and to the enduring bond between France and the United States, old in years, but forever young at heart.

Thank you, dear friends of the Paris American Club, for your loyalty to France, to its culture, and to the friendship that binds our nations. Bon anniversaire et longue vie au Paris American Club !

Vice Consul General Myriam Gil