

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FAY HARTOG LEVIN

It is with the deepest regret that I have informed President Obama that I will be stepping down as United States Ambassador to The Netherlands in September. The great honor of being selected by the President and confirmed by the Senate to represent my country and its people to the Netherlands has only been matched by the warmth and hospitality the Dutch people have shown my husband and me since the day of our arrival.

To be American Ambassador anywhere is an honor. To be Ambassador to the country of my parents' birth is a unique privilege. The thousands of Dutch men and women I have met from all walks of life who have welcomed me and supported my work have made me even prouder of that heritage. At this time, however, I feel the need to turn more of my attention to my family and to serving the public interest closer to my home in Chicago.

I thank the President for granting me the opportunity of a lifetime, and Secretary Clinton for her inspiring leadership. Special thanks to Prime Ministers Rutte and Balkenende, Deputy Prime Minister Verhagen and Foreign Minister Rosenthal with whom I have had the good fortune to work as well as with the many other officials throughout the Dutch government who are committed to maintaining and strengthening the bonds between our two nations.

I also want to thank my entire Mission staff without whom none of what we have accomplished together would have been possible. I know I leave the U.S.-Dutch partnership – one of the strongest and closest we have with any nation – in good hands for the future.