

**Ambassador Mull's Remarks at the Freedom Awards Dinner, Wroclaw Global Forum
Wroclaw Congress Center, June 12, 2015**

Thank you very much. It is an honor to serve as co-host of tonight's event and to welcome you to the Atlantic Council Freedom Awards ceremony. I'd like to especially thank co-host Ambassador Schnepf, Mayor Dutkiewicz, and Sejm Marshal Sikorski. And thank you to all the organizers at the Atlantic Council, and President Fred Kempe. Thank you all for your hard work and for being here to honor tonight's award recipients.

This past year, we were continuously reminded how vital the Atlantic Council's mission remains, and the importance of Poland's unique role in spreading the message of solidarity, democracy, and freedom in Central and Eastern Europe. The conflict in eastern Ukraine, and the crackdown on civil society and political opposition in Russia, is a persistent reminder that we still have a long way to go to ensure the fundamental freedoms of every European. The Atlantic Council's work to create international dialogue and encourage the flourishing of democracy remains an urgent task.

History shows us the desire for democracy is not limited to any one country, but is common to people everywhere. The transatlantic relationship that emerged from the ashes of World War II and continued after the fall of communism was founded on that fundamental conviction. Tonight we honor three individuals who have made exemplary achievements in promoting democracy and freedom in Europe. Thanks to their efforts and immense sacrifices, as well as those of countless other political activists, artists, political leaders, and journalists, Europe is more democratic and free than at any time in its history. There is much more to be done, but I have no doubt that with the passion and dedication of people and institutions like our Freedom Award recipients, the forces of oppression and violence will never succeed.

Once again, congratulations to the Atlantic Council and its partners for organizing this inspiring event.

Thank you.