

PRESS RELEASE



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**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

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Embassy Statement on Death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez

We wish to express our sympathies to the family and friends of Venezuelan President Chavez, who died on March 5th. As a nation, Venezuela will face challenges as it moves forward at this difficult moment in its history.

We stand ready to support Venezuela during this period. Part of moving forward will be the election of a new president, which should be carried out in accordance with Venezuela's commitments to the hemisphere's high democratic standards.

We underscore President Obama's statement:

“At this challenging time of President Hugo Chávez's passing, the United States reaffirms its support for the Venezuelan people and its interest in developing a constructive relationship with the Venezuelan government. As Venezuela begins a new chapter in its history, the United States remains committed to policies that promote democratic principles, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.”

The United States remains a longstanding friend of the Venezuelan people and we continue to support their aspirations for peace, security, and prosperity.

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