

**Statement by Ambassador Joseph Westphal on the Death of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz**

January 23, 2015

It is with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah. He was a great leader, a man of strength and vision to his people and a steadfast friend of the American people. He will be greatly missed by his people and by America.

With this sad event comes also the news that His Royal Highness Prince Salman is King. Our friendship with Saudi Arabia will only be strengthened by the wisdom and courage that is the essence of King Salman. We wish peace to King Abdullah and long life and good health to King Salman and pledge our enduring friendship and support to him and his people.

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