



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Statement of Support for the United States Diplomacy Center

Few people have a reason to think about diplomacy on a daily basis – but we all feel the consequences of its absence. We know the cost we pay when diplomacy is ignored or fails because, in our lives and in our history, we have known too well the price of war. And we honor and celebrate, as we should, those brave men and women who have borne the burden of war so that we may be free and safe.

So, too, should we honor and celebrate our diplomats, whose work for our remarkable nation prevents wars, ends wars – and keeps us free, safe, and prosperous in ways it is easy to take for granted. For less than one percent of the federal budget, U.S. diplomacy strengthens national security, advances our economic interests, protects Americans at home and abroad, and delivers real results for the American people. Deploying diplomats today is much cheaper than deploying troops tomorrow. Their service earns our country an enormous return on our investment.

That is why I am committed as Secretary of State to building the United States Diplomacy Center to tell the story of the importance of American diplomacy and of the brave men and women who work in diplomacy. The USDC will be the first museum and education facility dedicated to exploring the extraordinary journey of American diplomacy-- from the Treaty of Paris to the present day. It will help Americans understand that how we conduct our foreign policy matters in our everyday lives – not just in terms of the threats we face, but in the products we buy, the goods we sell, the jobs we create, and the opportunity we provide for economic growth and vitality. In short, it will help us see that there's nothing really "foreign" about American foreign policy.

For me, this mission is particularly personal. My Dad's work under Presidents both Democratic and Republican took my family around the world on a journey that brought home the sacrifices and commitment the men and women of the foreign service make every day on behalf of America. I wish everyone in our country could see first-hand the devotion, loyalty and amazingly hard-- often hazardous-- work of our diplomats on the front lines in the world's most dangerous places. They leave their families behind, miss holidays at home, and risk their safety to protect the interests of our country and make the world a better place. Our diplomats do not wear a uniform, but they swear the same oath as the men and women of our armed forces, and their daily commitment and sacrifice are no less important.

It is time for us to tell their story – and to share what American diplomacy has achieved and is achieving for the United States. The Diplomacy Center is the place to do it – but it will take our commitment together to make it a reality.



John Kerry
Secretary of State