

Statement of Randy Evans
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
November 1, 2017

Chairman Portman, Ranking Member Coons, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, to speak with you, and to answer any questions you might have. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be here in our nation's Capital with you. I would also like to express my thanks to President Trump and Secretary Tillerson for their confidence in me.

Last year, my mother passed away unexpectedly. It was one of those moments that forces you to stop and think about where you are and where you are going. Prior to that moment, I believed I had reach the pinnacle of my career. All that time, I had also served in a myriad of positions of public service from the bottom to the top while thinking I had done my part. Yet, at that moment, I knew then that it was time for me to do more. I did not know how or where, but I did know why.

Any doubt was erased when I received this handwritten note in the mail from my father. It said:

Randy, I thank you for your love. I appreciate the financial gift but more than the financial, I cherish our moments together more. Your mother and I spent a lot of time in prayer for you and your safety. God has blessed you with a beautiful gift. Use it wisely. God said through Paul in Romans, God through his gift is calling.

Calling? The only question then was how and where could I best answer that calling?

Against this backdrop, I am greatly thankful to President Trump and Secretary Tillerson for the opportunity to answer my calling and to serve our country, if I am confirmed, as the next Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It is a beautiful place with people who understand and appreciate freedom and

democracy and who have an unbelievable resiliency to overcome whatever history may throw at them.

As you know, Luxembourg is a relatively small country if measured by size or population. It is a unique mixture of citizens who are proud of their heritage but embrace their connections to so many other countries and peoples from around the world. In that way, they are much like us Americans or, in fairness, we are much like them - it really doesn't make a difference. The fact is we are both very much alike.

And, what Luxembourg lacks in size, it makes up for in punch. Anyone experienced in international affairs knows that Luxembourg is so much bigger than the number of its square miles or its citizens.

Luxembourg's influence and its leadership and its impact extends well beyond Europe to the entire world. It is a thought leader and economic engine capable of and doing great things - especially in technology and space.

It is also a country with the closest of ties to the United States, having been liberated twice from totalitarian occupation and standing steadfast with us as we together have liberated others from such unacceptable situations.

My wife - Linda, without whom I would not be here today, knows well those connections. Her uncle, First Lieutenant Richard P. LaFrance fought to free Luxembourg in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge and was later blinded in Germany a month before V-E Day.

And, next year will be the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and I know there will be many commemorations of the sacrifices made during the Great War. If confirmed, I hope to be part of them proudly representing the United State of America - not to tout our victories but instead to signal our continued commitment toward a future free from tyrannies and full of hope.

The world is full of challenges and Luxembourg will undoubtedly be at the center of solving many of those challenges as a leader in the European Union, a loyal member of NATO, and a friend of the United States. Certainly, there will be things we will want to move closer together on like contributions to NATO; addressing the growing refugee problem and the instabilities that follow; and,

leveling the playing field for American companies doing business around the world.

Open dialogue and communication, beginning with our shared values, will enable us to build even stronger bonds sufficient to weather any distractions.

From my perspective, as Singapore is the doorway to Asia, Luxembourg is rapidly becoming, if it has not already become, the doorway to the European Union. We must take advantage of such a unique ally with such great influence to work toward solving rather than debating the problems confronting the 21st century world.

This includes tackling the hard questions such as those arising out of climate change, or containing the threat of global terrorism, or stabilizing the flow of capital to avoid financial crises. And, of course, there are myriad of issues flowing from the United Kingdom's decision in the Brexit vote to leave the European Union.

In short, there is much to do. I am eager to get started. I hope you will let me put my skillsets to work for our country to the very best of my abilities. Thank you.