

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE JONATHAN FARRAR  
NOMINEE TO BE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA  
BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

Mister Chairman, distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is an honor to appear today before you as the President's nominee to be Ambassador to Panama. I am deeply grateful to the President and to the Secretary of State for their continued trust and confidence.

I would like to introduce the members of my family who are here today. First of all, my wife Terry, who has been with me throughout our thirty-one years in the Foreign Service and who has worked tirelessly to help those in need in the countries in which we have served. Also with us today is our youngest son Nathaniel.

The Foreign Service has taken our family throughout the Western Hemisphere to North, South, and Central America, and the Caribbean. I have had the good fortune during the past three decades to work on the full panoply of challenges in the hemisphere, including democracy, human rights, law enforcement, trade, investment, and protection of the environment.

All of these issues are relevant to our relationship with Panama. Panama's location and role in global trade make its success vital to our prosperity and national security. While Panama's economic growth rate is the highest in the hemisphere, Panama continues to face the challenge of making this growth more inclusive, so that all of its citizens can enjoy the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families.

The recently-approved bilateral Trade Promotion Agreement holds the promise to greatly expand our economic partnership to the mutual benefit of both our peoples. U.S. exports to Panama have grown rapidly and the United States is by far the leading exporter of goods to Panama, yet we are facing increasing competition for Panama's import market share. If confirmed, I would take what I have learned from three assignments as an economic and commercial officer overseas and harness the resources of our entire embassy to promote U.S. exports and create American jobs. Panama is making major investments in the Canal and

other infrastructure amid annual economic growth averaging eight percent since 2006. A key element of my mission, if confirmed, would be to work with American businesses to ensure they are able to compete and win on a level playing field. Our implementation of the Trade Promotion Agreement and our bilateral Tax Information Exchange Agreement afford new opportunities to increase the transparency of operations of governmental and financial entities and thus strengthen democratic institutions in Panama.

The ties between the United States and Panama are strong. Nowhere is this more evident than in our cooperation to combat illegal drug trafficking and other criminal activity. In 2011 alone Panamanian authorities seized more than thirty tons of cocaine, much of which otherwise would have made its way to our shores. The government and people of Panama rightfully are concerned about the security threat posed by criminal gangs and drug trafficking organizations. If confirmed, I would bring my experience with counternarcotics and law enforcement programs across Latin America to direct a mission-wide effort to deepen our bilateral security cooperation and ensure it remains closely integrated into our overall efforts in the region.

Above all, if confirmed my highest priority as Ambassador would be the protection of the nearly 45,000 Americans who reside in or are visiting Panama at any given time, and of the more than 100 American companies that do business there. My commitment to helping our fellow Americans abroad began thirty-one years ago in the consular section in Mexico City, and continues today.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the honor of appearing before the committee today. If confirmed, I pledge to work with you and your colleagues to advance the vital interests of the United States in Panama.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.