

Statement of Marc R. Stanley
Ambassador-Designate to the Argentine Republic
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
October 26, 2021

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as President Biden's nominee to serve as the Ambassador to the Argentine Republic. I am deeply grateful that President Biden and Secretary Blinken asked me to serve.

Serving in this role would truly be the honor of a lifetime – and another humbling chapter in a family story that is truly unique to the American promise.

That story finds its roots in small villages in Belarus and Ukraine. My father's family first made their way to Brooklyn, New York, with little to their name. My mother's father fled pogroms in the early 1900s and landed in London, before his daughter eventually crossed the Atlantic at the age of 19 to reach America's shores as well.

My parents met at Jewish singles dance on Long Island, and after marrying and having two sons, moved to Dallas, built a business, and planted the seeds of a fruitful life.

My younger brother and I were born in Dallas – first generation Texans. Though we have lost our father and two brothers, whom I miss deeply, I am grateful that my 92 year old mother, Renee, and my brother David, are still with us in Dallas.

And Texas is where I met my extraordinary wife, the love of my life, Wendy Hillebrand, and together, we have been blessed every day by three incredible children – Daryl, Paul, and Mikey – and now, one grandchild.

I want to thank my family and friends for their love and support.

Throughout my life, public service, the pursuit of justice, the desire to give back and repair the world – what in Judaism we call “tikkun olam” – have always been a central part of my identity: as a young intern and staffer on Capitol Hill, as a lawyer, as a volunteer, as an activist in everything from the fight to rescue Soviet Jewry to the cause of a safer state of Israel to leadership roles in local and national non-profits and in state and federal government.

Now, if confirmed, I have the chance to continue forging that path on behalf of our nation. There is no possibility I find more thrilling or more humbling.

Argentina, Latin America's second largest country, is a critical partner in our hemisphere, and as the United States Ambassador, I intend to do my part to advance matters of mutual interest, rooted in our mutual values.

I know I will do so strengthened by the outstanding staff at our embassy – the distinguished members of the foreign service and local Argentine staff who perform the quiet but vital work of diplomacy every day.

And I will come to this position with clear priorities in mind:

1. COVID-19

Argentina has started to turn the corner on efforts to defeat a powerful second wave of COVID-19 infections, and the United States has already donated 3.5 million vaccine doses to Argentina and connected the Argentines with our vaccine manufacturers for the purchase and delivery of more life-saving shots.

Ending the pandemic globally will benefit the United States, Argentina, and the entire world. If confirmed, I will continue to explore all avenues to assist this global fight.

2. Economy

Argentina is Latin America's third-largest economy, but a long history of economic instability has taken a toll on its productivity and competitiveness. Argentina has been in recession since 2018, and its government must construct a macroeconomic policy framework that will put it on the road to financial sustainability.

If confirmed, I will work to support Argentina's efforts to address its economic challenges.

3. Trade

Trade with Argentina is an essential pillar of our bilateral relationship. We remain Argentina's largest foreign investor, but two-way trade has been shrinking and some U.S. companies are leaving due to regulatory barriers.

If confirmed, I will keep engaging the Argentine government to address these challenges as we explore opportunities to expand U.S. trade and investment in industries like mining, cybersecurity, pharma, and technology. I will continue the Embassy's work to advocate vigorously for U.S. businesses.

4. Human Rights

Argentina and the United States enjoy a longstanding relationship founded on our fidelity to democracy, prosperity, security, and the protection of human rights across the Americas. But

Argentina has not yet joined the United States and others in pressing for meaningful reforms in countries like Venezuela and Cuba.

If confirmed, I plan to engage with Argentine leadership at all levels to seek ways to achieve our mutual goal of a hemisphere that honors our highest ideals.

5. PRC

As the United States sees greater competition with the People's Republic of China in Argentina and elsewhere, I will make it a priority to hold everyone's feet to the fire, especially when products like below-market 5G technology are entering the marketplace and enabling China to access all data and information among Argentina's people.

If confirmed, I will work with Argentine partners to uphold the rule of law and live up to the highest environmental, social, privacy, and labor standards worldwide.

6. Public Diplomacy/Closing

Finally, as Ambassador, I will make it clear that America is truly back. That our presence is a positive one. That we are interested in deepening our people-to-people ties. I am committed to traveling to all 23 provinces to promote our businesses and culture, and to remind our Argentine friends of everything we have in common.

If you support my confirmation and offer me this chance to serve, I promise to cooperate with you to demonstrate the power of American values and to advance our nation's interests. It would be a true blessing and privilege and source of pride to craft this next chapter.

Thank you.