

**STATEMENT OF MARIANNE M. MYLES  
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE  
REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee to serve as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde. I am grateful to the President and Secretary Rice for the confidence and trust they have shown by nominating me for this position.

It is my pleasure to take a moment to introduce the family members, friends and colleagues who are with me here today. I am joined by my husband Stan, a retired Foreign Service Officer, our daughter Lee-Ellen, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Roberto Clemente Middle School, my sister Nancy Edwards and her daughter Kate, good friend and neighbor Jim Gierula, and Lee-Ellen's classmate Frieda Lindroth. From my current office, I would like to introduce Deputy Assistant Secretary Linda Taglialatela, and colleagues Bruce Cole, Margaret Dean, Bill Pope, and Tijen Aybar.

I joined the Foreign Service at the young age of 22 because of a strong commitment to public service. I look forward to the opportunity, if

confirmed, to utilize the skills I have acquired during my 30+ year Foreign Service career to advance our interests in Cape Verde. My multiple assignments in Brazil, a country that shares many common interests with Cape Verde, my fluent Portuguese, the work I oversaw on remittances and the disaster relief I provided while Consul General in Naples, my work to protect American citizens in Bogota, as well as my inter-agency training at the National War College and background as an economist, have given me a wide range of useful tools. If confirmed, I will put them to best use.

Mr. Chairman, the Republic of Cape Verde is an African success story. It is one of Africa's oldest and strongest democracies with an unbroken tradition of civilian rule since independence in 1975. It is politically stable. Corruption is low and transparency is high. Perhaps most important, Cape Verde's human rights record is excellent.

In the brief time I have this morning, I'd like to mention a few important aspects of the U.S. - Cape Verde bilateral relationship. That relationship is strong, in part because it is a long-standing one, beginning with the opening in 1818 of our first consulate in sub-Saharan Africa.

Extraordinarily close family ties also strengthen the relationship, as a large number of Cape Verdeans are resident in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The first factor in our strong relationship is that we share a common commitment to democracy. The United States has supported Cape Verde's continuing efforts to strengthen its democracy. The commitment by Cape Verdeans and their political parties to democratic dispute resolution is extraordinary. Closely contested elections in 2001 and 2006 were resolved according to the constitution, without political violence and heated rhetoric.

The second factor is a shared commitment to security. Cape Verde's location 300 miles from the west coast of Africa strategically positions it in major north-south sea routes. The Government of Cape Verde has provided strong support on security cooperation. Cape Verde's hosting of NATO's first live military exercise in Africa in June 2006 was an historic event. And Cape Verde's solid support of U.S. ship visits and counter-narcotics activities are further indications of their policy to be an active, constructive participant in a strategic partnership, as well as a regional role model.

A third factor is economics. Cape Verde's AGOA eligibility, its new WTO membership, and its recent partnership status with the European Union offer Cape Verde the chance to become a trans-Atlantic bridge for tourism, trade, and investment. Its economy is also benefiting from its selection in 2005 as one of the first Millennium Challenge Account countries. Cape Verde's recent graduation to Lower Middle Income Status means that it has to make further progress to meet higher policy performance standards; but Cape Verde has already made many improvements and has achieved very high levels of performance -- even when compared to its new peers in this higher income group -- in the areas of accountability, civil liberties, control of corruption, government effectiveness, and rule of law.

Mr. Chairman, the U.S. remains a strategic partner with Cape Verde, focused on 3 main goals: accelerating economic expansion, consolidating a stable democracy, and strengthening the rule of law. If confirmed, I will be eager to pursue these efforts, as well as develop other strategic partnerships. But as a first priority, I would carry out the Chief of Mission's responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of all Americans and U.S. Government employees. I understand and embrace the obligation to ensure the fair treatment and high morale of mission staff and family members.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.