

Statement of Douglas Mastriano
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 16, 2026

Chairman McCormick, Ranking Member Rosen and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is a tremendous honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to Slovakia. I am deeply humbled by the President's confidence in me, and I am grateful for the opportunity to earn your trust and approval to represent the American people in engaging with an important ally in a dynamic and evolving region of the world.

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to my family, who is here with me today. Their unwavering support has been my foundation throughout my career, and their presence reminds me of the values that guide my service: faith, family, and a commitment to the common good.

I am especially grateful to my wife, Rebbie, who has stood beside me through more than three decades of military service, multiple deployments, years overseas, and the many demands of public service. She shared with me the uncertainties of the Cold War in Germany, the challenges of military life, and the sacrifices that service to our nation often requires of military families. I am also grateful for our son, Josiah, who is now a Lieutenant in the Pennsylvania National Guard, whose support and encouragement continue to inspire me. Any success I have achieved has been possible because of their steadfast support and faith.

Over the course of a thirty-year career in the United States Army, culminating in service as a Colonel, I served in Europe, the Middle East, and Afghanistan in positions ranging from tactical leadership to strategic planning and multinational coordination. I served with NATO allies throughout Europe, participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, helped build international coalition support for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and later served in senior intelligence and strategic positions supporting NATO and coalition operations in Afghanistan. As a professor at the U.S. Army War College, I taught strategic studies and national security affairs, while my academic work focused extensively on European history, NATO, and transatlantic security. These experiences taught me the importance of alliance management, diplomacy, clear communication, and principled leadership—lessons that I will bring with me if confirmed as Ambassador to Slovakia.

These experiences have shaped my approach to leadership and strengthened my resolve to advance American interests abroad. I feel confident my experience has prepared me for this important diplomatic opportunity to lead the U.S. mission in Slovakia. If confirmed to serve as the U.S. Ambassador, I will work closely with teams from across the government to strengthen our bilateral relationship and focus on the following key areas of our alliance.

First and foremost, I will encourage Slovak officials at all levels of government to advance American interests and to promote American values.

Security: The safety and well-being of American citizens in Slovakia will always be my top priority. Beyond that, Slovakia is a vital NATO Ally and security partner for the United States. It makes significant contributions to common security objectives such as combating terrorism, transnational crime, and weapons proliferation. Slovakia plays a critical role in regional and global security efforts, including hosting a NATO enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group. If confirmed, I will encourage Slovakia to take proactive steps to meet its defense spending commitment of five percent, while promoting regional cooperation to strengthen NATO's collective security. Together, we can ensure that sovereignty and freedom remain the cornerstones of European stability.

Economy and energy: Economic prosperity and energy security are essential pillars of our partnership. The United States supports Slovakia's efforts to diversify its energy sources, and I look forward to continuing to deliver on President Trump's energy policies, particularly through Slovakia's investments in nuclear energy. Slovakia is also home to many American companies that drive innovation and growth, creating jobs and opportunities for both nations. If confirmed, I will advocate for a stable and transparent economic environment that fosters fair competition and strengthens the ties between our business communities.

Outreach to the Slovak public: Diplomacy is not just conducted in government offices—it thrives in the hearts and minds of people. If confirmed, I will engage with Slovaks from all walks of life, sharing American values and policy priorities while listening to their perspectives. From cultural exchanges to educational partnerships, I will work to deepen the people-to-people connections that form the bedrock of our alliance.

Finally, I will lead our mission team with integrity, purpose, and a spirit of collaboration. The United States Embassy in Bratislava is a beacon of American interests and values, and I will work diligently to ensure that our team continues to

advance our shared goals and deliver results that strengthen the U.S.-Slovakia relationship.

Chairman, Ranking Member, this is a pivotal moment. Slovakia is not just a NATO ally—it is a civilizational partner in renewing the values that unite the West: faith, family, freedom, and sovereignty. If confirmed, I will approach this role with humility, determination, and a deep sense of responsibility to uphold these principles and advance the interests of the American people.

Thank you for the honor of appearing before you today. I look forward to answering your questions and working together to ensure that the United States and Slovakia continue to thrive as allies, partners, and friends.