

Statement of Timothy Broas
Ambassador-designate to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
September 26, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Johnson, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee,

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. I am deeply grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for their support and confidence in nominating me to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. If confirmed by the Senate, I pledge to devote all my energy to represent the United States to the best of my ability.

First, if you will permit me, I would like to introduce my wife, Julie Broas, who is here with me today. My wife Julie is an attorney in Washington, D.C., with the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. My three daughters, Emily, Allison, and Madeline, unfortunately cannot be here with me today, but I know they are supporting me in spirit today.

Mr. Chairman and fellow Senators, as you well know, the United States' long and fruitful relationship with the Kingdom of the Netherlands spans centuries that remains important today. In fact, the United Provinces of the Netherlands was the second nation officially to recognize the United States when the Dutch

government accepted the credentials of U.S. Minister John Adams on April 19, 1782.

Through the years, the Netherlands has stood as one of our most reliable diplomatic partners. The Netherlands is a valued and highly-capable NATO ally, and a founding member of the Alliance. Additionally, the Netherlands is a top economic and trade partner. Our nations share common values, and bilaterally, through NATO, and in partnership through the European Union, we promote open and prosperous societies, encouraging we promote open and prosperous societies. The United States also values and commends the Netherlands' steadfast and generous support to development programs.

We value our alliance with the Netherlands, and we commend its continuing commitment to develop and sustain its defense capabilities necessary for NATO missions, as evidenced yet again in its recent White Paper. The Dutch are active contributors to international security missions, including the NATO-led efforts in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Libya. We are also thankful for the Netherlands' deployment of Patriot batteries – along with the United State and Germany as part of a NATO effort -- to augment Turkey's air defenses earlier this year. This deployment gives confidence and demonstrates solidarity among NATO allies.

The Netherlands is also firmly aligned with U.S. policy policy on Syria, and it fully backs the U.S.-Russia Framework to ensure Syria's chemical weapons are

accounted for and destroyed. As host to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Netherlands has announced it will provide the OPCW with important financial support to ensure Syria's commitments are fulfilled, thus preventing the Assad regime from using these weapons again. If confirmed, I will strive to maintain Dutch commitment to the non-proliferation of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict.

The Netherlands hosts the world's international tribunals that adjudicate and resolve the world's most complex and difficult legal conflicts. The Dutch tradition of supporting international justice is something I deeply admire and respect. Indeed, I had occasion to invoke the jurisdiction of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in The Hague as an attorney on behalf of American clients seeking to recover property and funds confiscated in 1979 by the Iranian regime. That same Iranian regime has not yet addressed the international community's serious concerns regarding its nuclear program. The international community has united to impose sanctions on the Iranian government, and the Netherlands and other European partners are crucial to this effort. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to ensure that our Dutch allies remain shoulder to shoulder with us as we strive to hold Iran to its international obligations.

Our longstanding relationship with the Netherlands is based on trust, confidence, and shared values that transcend traditional security, economic, and

diplomatic ties. The United States works together with the Netherlands through military cooperation and development aid to promote security, justice, and economic development throughout the world. I might add that the Netherlands is one of the world's most generous development aid donor nations and a robust contributor of humanitarian assistance in response to the many crises that we see today.

With a population of approximately 17 million, the Netherlands is the third largest foreign direct investor in the United States and our ninth largest trading partner. From 2000 through 2010, the Netherlands was the number one destination in the world for U.S direct investment, far ahead of Canada, Mexico, Singapore, and Japan. The Port of Rotterdam is Europe's largest and a logistical centerpiece of trans-Atlantic economic commerce. If I am confirmed, I will work tirelessly to maintain and improve our strong economic and trade relations with the Netherlands, consistent with the Administration's goals to increase exports and create new jobs, especially with the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) negotiations underway between the United States and the European Union. I am pleased that the Netherlands supports concluding the T-TIP. The agreement has the potential to create strong new bonds between the United States and our European allies, while giving us a powerful tool to support an open, rules-based trading system to the benefit of a robust U.S. economy.

The Dutch are justifiably renowned for their open and tolerant society. We share deep, longstanding values. We cooperate to combat terror and to prevent violent extremism. The Dutch know first-hand that we must never lower our vigilance against the grave threat of terrorism and that we must work with at-risk populations to ensure young people do not become alienated and susceptible to radicalism. If I am confirmed, I will use the Embassy's resources to reach out to key populations in the Netherlands along these lines.

The United States and the Netherlands also share a strong commitment to the political and economic participation of women. The Netherlands is a partner in the Presidential Challenge on Women's Political and Economic Participation. If confirmed, I pledge to advance our collaboration with the Netherlands to promote women in politics and business.

Additionally, the United States and the Netherlands share an important commitment to green energy. If confirmed, I will build on the close cooperation our Embassy has forged with the Netherlands on alternative energy and environmental sustainability.

In all of these endeavors, it will be essential to communicate our policies and interests not only to the Dutch government, but to leaders in civil society, among youth, academia, entrepreneurs, and media. I will oversee a public outreach strategy to engage television, print, and online media; host cultural events with

American artists and performers; and cast a wide, inclusive net for participants for our professional and academic exchange programs.

Mr. Chairman, I have spent over 30 years representing clients in a wide variety of complex criminal and civil disputes. While some involved only money, in sums small and large, others involved my clients' liberty and freedom and often their livelihoods. I have managed teams of lawyers, clients, and consultants on cases both large and small – all with the goal of reaching the most favorable result for my client. Along the way I have encountered legal and factual and managerial minefields of every possible type, some predictable and others from out of nowhere. In all of these cases, I was called upon to make critical decisions and manage diverse personalities and points of view. If I am confirmed, I will draw upon this management leadership and experience when I assume leadership of the team at our Embassy in The Hague and Consulate General in Amsterdam.

Let me say that I am particularly looking forward to collaborating with our locally employed staff in the Netherlands. Local employees are the backbone of any diplomatic mission, and I will engage them to ensure they have a voice in shaping and promoting U.S. foreign policy in the Netherlands so they know they are a key component to our bilateral relationship. With their support and engagement, our success as a Mission is greatly enhanced.

I also have had the pleasure of serving as a board member on a number of non-profit institutions, including Partners in Health and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. If confirmed, I will draw upon these experiences in my work in the Netherlands, which is such an important partner in promoting democracy, human rights, developmental aid, and economic growth around the world. The Netherlands understands, as does the United States, that military and diplomatic efforts are not the only tools for combating instability; development plays a very important role. If confirmed, I pledge to advance U.S.-Dutch cooperation on democratic development, from Belarus and Ukraine, to the Middle East and North Africa.

Let me close with a personal story. I am one of nine children born to the late William Broas and Anita St. Germain. My only regret here today is that my parents are not here to see their son appear before your Committee to seek confirmation as an ambassador. They would have been very proud. My father, fittingly of Dutch descent, served honorably in the Marines in the Pacific theatre during World War II. My mother lived in Paris, France, until her father, confronted like all French citizens by the Nazi invasion and occupation of France, put her – along with her mother and her siblings – on a small boat to New York. She eventually met my father after the war, and one of the many things that bound them together was a profound love for the freedom they found in the United States.

The experiences of my parents and the love they felt for this country left a lasting impression on me. I always believed that, if I ever had the chance to serve our country, I would do so whenever the call came. When President Obama asked me to be our next Ambassador to the Netherlands, the country of my father's ancestors, I could almost hear my parents echoing my affirmative reply. If I am confirmed, I will be guided at all times by the pride and love of country that my parents instilled in me from a young age.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Thank you.