

“Good Neighbor Award” from the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, May 19, 2026

Remarks by Earl Anthony Wayne

- Thank you very much for this great honor.
- Working on US-Mexico Relations has been a sincere pleasure for the last fourteen years both during my career working for the United States government, and since, in my private capacity.
- I first recall the opportunity to fly to Mexico City with Secretary Albright in 2000 to help deepen cooperation with Mexico, as Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs.
- From that trip on, the great importance and opportunities of this bilateral relationship became clear.
- I enjoyed working on that relationship to deepen economic cooperation under the George Bush Administration.
- A few years later while serving in Afghanistan, Secretary Clinton called me to Washington to ask if I would be willing to serve in Mexico as Ambassador and to focus on work to deepen US-Mexico cooperation on public security and on economic relations.
- This was a great opportunity. It subsequently worked four years on broadening the friendship and cooperation between Mexico and the United States.
- There were very tough and challenging issues involving improving our public security collaboration including against crime, and to help take our economic and trade collaboration to new levels.
- And in the process, I had the honor and pleasure of getting to know many of you. And, as you know, this included finding ways to making our border more secure and more fluid for trade, as our relationship grew.
- It was also a great opportunity to look for new ways to help bolster cooperation aimed at deepening educational, youth and other cooperation – where I first had the pleasure of working closely with Ambassador Moctezuma (before he was an Ambassador) to deepen the connections between our young people.
- There were many special and enjoyable opportunities to deepen connections between Mexico and the United States.
- Once I ended my term as Ambassador in August 2015, I continued working hard with the Wilson Center’s Mexico Institute to promote this special relationship. I undertook a range of other work including my writings, my talks, my travels and my efforts to help solve problems and create new opportunities. That work continues.
- I very much enjoyed working with groups like yours to deepen ties and to help solve problems. There are so many opportunities where we can all continue to collaborate.
- I look forward to seeing the US-Mexico relationship deepen as we move ahead with the good work by all of us from the public and the private sectors to build bilateral stronger pillars linkages and to solve difficulties as they arise.
- Thank you very much again for this honor.