



Embassy of the United States of America

Bangkok, Thailand

January 28, 2008

To the People and Residents of Thailand,

It is with great pride that I assume the role of U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. I served here at the Embassy early in my career, from 1989-1992, and have been back many times since then. Thailand holds a very special place in my heart and that of my family. We could not be happier to be back in Bangkok and I could not be more honored than to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand.

This year is an auspicious one for Thailand and the United States as we celebrate 175 years of U.S.-Thai relations. It would be impossible to reflect on 175 years in such a short space, but let me at least highlight the moment our friendship began. On March 20, 1833, America signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with Thailand, then Siam. As the first treaty signed between the United States and a country in Asia, it was an especially noteworthy event, and it makes Thailand the oldest of our friends in this region.

The Treaty of 1833 began a partnership that has developed and strengthened over time, and cooperation between the United State and Thailand remains strong and enduring. We are excited and optimistic about the future, and look forward to the challenges and the successes that lie ahead for our two countries, as both partners and allies.

This year will be filled with a series of events to commemorate our very special anniversary and I invite you all to share with me, my staff and my family in celebrating 175 years of U.S.-Thai friendship.

My best wishes and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric G. John".

Eric G. John
Ambassador