

Remarks, American Academy of Diplomacy Awards Luncheon  
Nancy Mitchell  
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You have made me very happy. Thank you, Ambassador Shaffer and the Book Committee. In a way, my book is a love letter to the difficult art of diplomacy, and for you to honor it is, simply, wonderful.

I'd like to acknowledge my sister, Debbie Fitch, who is here today and who has always supported me. I'd also like to thank Joe Brinley who is also here and who, as head of the Wilson Center Press, gracefully shepherded my manuscript into a book. And I'd like to acknowledge Stanford University Press and my home base, the great North Carolina State University,

Most of all, I want to thank you -- all the ambassadors and State Department officials who wrote memos and cables, and agreed to be interviewed for this book. You helped me appreciate the three characteristics that I think define diplomacy and that I tried to highlight in my book.

First, doggedness. Especially when struggling to resolve the Rhodesian civil war, the members of the US State Department displayed extraordinary doggedness. When it looked impossible, when Congress obstructed them, when the African leaders balked, when the public lost interest, the US State Department just kept plugging away.

Second, teamwork. To paraphrase Hillary Clinton, successful diplomacy takes a village. I marvel at the intricate teamwork that was on display in the execution of the Africa policy.

Third, and finally, joy. Diplomacy might be an unsung and at times frustrating profession, but it clearly has moments of pure joy. I hope that I conveyed these in my book.

And now you have returned the favor, and given me pure joy. Thank you.