



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MADRID

THE AMBASSADOR

January 15, 2021

[REDACTED]

Dear friend:

On January 20, 2021, I will conclude my tour as the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra. It has been an honor to serve in this position for more than three years, during which time we have accomplished so much together.

Our economic partnership has grown, as Spaniards and Americans continue to invest heavily in our shared prosperity. During my tenure, Spain increased its investment in the United States by \$9 billion, and the United States remained the largest foreign investor in Spain. We further strengthened our economic relationship when the United States and Spain eliminated double taxation for companies that operate in both countries. This agreement is saving U.S. and Spanish companies hundreds of millions of dollars annually, leading to reinvestment and thousands of new jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. This is a true win-win that is helping us recover faster from the pandemic. Como se dice por aquí, hace la tarta más grande para todos.

I am proud to have strengthened the long-standing U.S.-Spain security and defense relationship. We are grateful to Spain for hosting U.S. service members and their families at Spanish bases in Rota and Morón. Our partnership and the NATO Alliance have ensured peace and security in the region. The collaboration between Spanish and U.S. law enforcement has been equally impressive, with hundreds of suspected criminals arrested, 422 tons of illegal drugs seized, and \$50 million in illicit funds and assets confiscated since 2016. Our countries also worked together to respond to the tragic terrorist attacks in Barcelona in August 2017, which has resulted in an even stronger counter-terrorism partnership.

I have been encouraged to see the incredible growth in the numbers of Spanish and American students seizing the opportunity to study abroad in our two countries. The latest data shows that Spain now sends a record-setting 8,000 students to study in the United States annually, with nearly 34,000 American students choosing Spain each year

for their studies. While some study abroad programs were paused temporarily, we expect those numbers continue to grow as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The experiences gained by our students through these educational exchanges will change their lives forever, just as they changed mine. Over 40 years ago, I came to Spain to study at the University of Valencia. Since then, I have never stopped coming back, be it for additional studies at the University of Seville, my work as an international investor, philanthropic endeavors sponsored by my family, or my service as U.S. Ambassador.

In the years ahead, my family and I will continue to consider Spain home since we now have an apartment in Madrid and a house in Cádiz. When we are in the United States, we will have a friendly reminder of our deep connection to Spain courtesy of our two Spanish dogs, Luna, from Málaga, and Lola, from Ávila. Hemos echado raíces aquí.

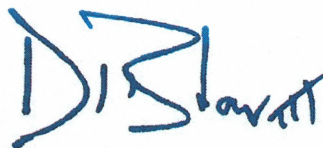
These past three years have ensured that my passion for Spain has been passed down to my three children. The next generation of Buchans - Cate, Beau, and John - are just getting started. Prior to moving here, they had spent their summers at a sleepover camp in Spain. After I was named Ambassador, they attended a Spanish school while in Madrid, the only three Americans in a school of more than 775 students. As a family, we will continue to advance the ideals of the U.S.-Spain relationship through initiatives funded by our family foundation, focused on education, women's issues, and STEM programs for underserved youth.

I thank you for your support and friendship during my time as U.S. Ambassador. I leave you in the very capable hands of Conrad Tribble, who will serve as Chargé d'Affaires in the days ahead. Conrad has my full confidence and shares my love of Spain and its people.

I wish President-elect Biden and the new administration well. I have no doubt that our enduring bilateral relationship will continue to flourish under the next U.S. Ambassador because Spain and the United States are - and will always remain - allies, partners, and friends.

En varias ocasiones he expresado que cada vez me siento menos guiri en España. Es cierto, mi familia y yo hemos echado raíces en este país que nos ha acogido y compartido su pasión por la vida, la gente, la cultura y la amistad entre nuestros pueblos. No bajamos el telón de mi familia aquí. Comenzamos a escribir el siguiente acto de nuestra historia en España.

Un fuerte abrazo,



Duke Buchan III