

*SALUTE TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
AT A DINNER AT THE
UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR PEACE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
13TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN FORUM
OCTOBER 17, 2017, WASHINGTON, D.C.*

Mr. Secretary,

It is a great honour to join in the salutes to you on this memorable evening and to do so on behalf of my Canadian colleagues who are assembled here in this magnificent hall which carries your name. It is a great honour but also a humbling task.

How rare is it to be able to salute one of the world's greatest living statesmen? An individual who has served in four United States Cabinet positions under two Presidents. An individual who is recognized as having one of the finest policy minds of the past century. An individual who has served with distinction as a citizen soldier, a leader of enterprise and as an intellectual champion in the most hallowed halls of academe.

The first time you and I met, Mr. Secretary, was in the 1980s when you, as Secretary of State, spoke to a group of my Canadian colleagues who I assembled in New York. After hearing your views on the importance of the Canada-United States relationship and your perspectives on world affairs, one of my colleagues remarked, "Shultz is the smartest American I have ever met." He was right on.

Throughout the years, you have been a faithful friend of Canada. As Secretary of State, your first trip was to Canada and your relationships in my country run deep.

Mr. Secretary, there are Americans in this hall tonight who have worked with you for many decades. The Canadians here perhaps know you best through the journey we have travelled together at the *North American Forum*. Thirteen years ago, you convened the first meeting of the *Forum* in Sonoma. You were joined by Mexico's Founding Chair, Pedro Aspe, who is with us this evening, and by Canada's Founding Chair, my long-time friend, the late Peter Lougheed.

Together, you set us on a course that aimed to build a strong and dynamic continent that would marshal the best of American, Mexican and Canadian ideas and talent. The goal was not short on ambition – to create a North American powerhouse that would be paramount among the world's regions for many decades to come. At the heart of this vision was your unshakeable belief that the interests of the United States, Mexico and Canada would be best served through ever-deeper cooperation right here, in the neighbourhood.

As we meet here in Washington at this time, this vision is being challenged as never before. I know that I speak for my Canadian friends in saying that we students of the George Shultz school of thought will never give up on the principles you have championed all your life – the

principles of open trade, the mobility of talent, the closest possible cooperation among neighbours and allies, and respect for the rule of law. As you have often said, Mr. Secretary, these principles and relationships are akin to a garden. “If you want to see things flourish, you have to tend to it.”

Remembrance of our journey together at the *North American Forum* would be incomplete without mention of the indomitable Charlotte – a powerhouse to be reckoned with, and a gracious one at that. I will always remember at one of the annual dinners at your Stanford residence, how Charlotte surprised us with Saskatoon berry sauce and Newfoundland screech. How Canadian is that?!

Mr. Secretary, thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your friendship. To us Canadians, you embody what is best about the Great Republic and the immutable values it embraces. Your life exemplifies these values – to borrow from the Marine Corps motto, you have been *semper fi* – always faithful.

Thomas d’Aquino