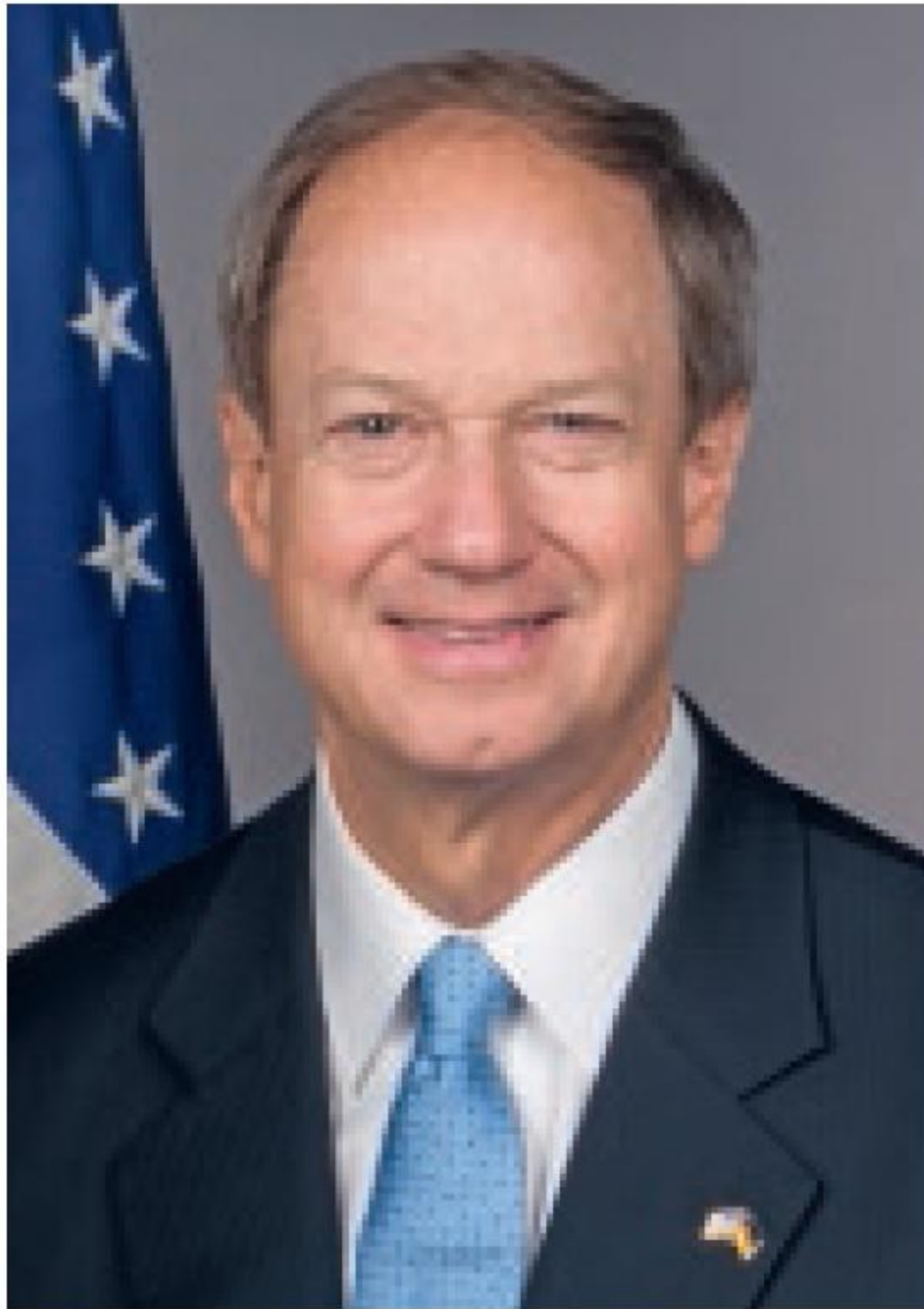


# Interview with the Honorary President



**John B. Emerson**  
US Ambassador to the  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Honorary President  
American Chamber of  
Commerce in Germany e.V.

▽ *The past few months have been a trying time for the European Union. What does this mean for the relationship with the US?*

▲ The United States has a strong and enduring interest in a united, democratic Europe. Europe is a cornerstone of America's engagement with the world. European countries are and will remain among our closest allies and friends, and Europe is an indispensable partner around the globe. With the largest trade and investment relationship in the world, our economies are deeply interconnected. Without a doubt, the UK and EU will negotiate a productive way forward to ensure continued trade and investment and the mutual prosperity they bring; and without a doubt, the US will maintain its strong relationships with both the EU and the UK.

▽ *How important will TTIP be in the year 2017?*

▲ Globalization and technology have led to economic, cultural and demographic changes, which in turn have created anxieties regarding the changing nature of jobs, wage stagnation, and income inequality. These anxieties contributed to the Brexit vote, as well as some of the opposition to TTIP.

How we respond to these forces will determine the durability of an international order that ensures security and prosperity for future generations. Along with investments in infrastructure, education and training, high-standard trade agreements like TTIP are part of the solution to the dislocations that have been created by globalization and technology. Trade agreements allow us to shape globalization, offering opportunities to address emerging issues related to new technologies and digital trade, and to put into place high standards that protect workers, consumers, and the environment. They also allow us to increase commerce and thereby create high-quality new jobs by eliminating artificial barriers to trade. Additionally, they promote values like rule of law, stability, predictability, and democratic standards. At a time when there is heightened uncertainty in the global economy, this kind of trade policy makes preeminent sense.

▽ *What are the challenges and opportunities the US-German relationship will be facing in 2017?*

▲ The 21<sup>st</sup> century is unfolding at a staggering rate of change – and new challenges will undoubtedly arise. Major transforming forces are at work in our societies. Although by almost every measure, the world is less violent than ever before, we see increasing tensions caused by old divisions and fresh hatreds. Our work together over the past three years has convinced me that the transatlantic, and in particular the German-American, partnership will continue to remain focused on the complex and pressing global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Germany has embraced a major leadership role in the world today. There are few other countries that project the same resolve, trust, and capability on the world stage. The partnership between our two countries is strong and dynamic. It is based on political, economic, and security relationships, extensive people-to-people ties, and close coordination at the most senior levels of our government and civil society.