



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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For Immediate Release

Ambassador Gerald M. Zackios presents his credentials to U.S. President Barack H. Obama

Washington, D.C. (September 16, 2016) – Today, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United States, His Excellency Gerald M. Zackios, presented his credentials to the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barack H. Obama in the Oval Office at the White House.

In his remarks Ambassador Zackios conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from Her Excellency President Hilda C. Heine and the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to President Obama and the American People.

Ambassador Zackios assured President Obama that the RMI Government will continue to work closely with the U.S. Government in addressing issues of mutual concern, including the ongoing implementation of the Compact of Free Association, consequences of the U.S. nuclear testing program, implementation of the Military Use and Operating Rights Agreement, and ongoing efforts to address the devastating and negative impact of climate change.

In closing, Ambassador Zackios reiterated his desire to continue to further strengthening the special and unique relationship between the two countries.

President Obama accepted the Letter of Credence and warmly welcomed Ambassador Zackios back to Washington, this time in his capacity as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and said he looked forward to working with Ambassador Zackios to advance their common agenda and to deepen the strong and abiding friendship between the two countries.

President Obama, in his remarks, said that the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States share a long history of friendship and close cooperation under the Compact of Free Association and their mutual commitment to democracy and freedom. The President recognized the commitment of Marshallese citizens in the US Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and remembered their sacrifices such as SGT Solomon Sam to preserve security around the world. The President also expressed appreciation to the Republic of Marshall Islands for its continued support at the United Nations, and its leadership that greatly contributed to a robust climate change agreement in Paris, adding

that the Republic of the Marshall Islands is one of the first countries to join the Paris Agreement.

Ambassador Zackios was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Viola Milne-Zackios.

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