

The President

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
Vice-President
of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Chairman
of the U.S. Helsinki Commission
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
OSCE PA Special Representative
on Human Trafficking Issues
Co-Chairman
of the U.S. Helsinki Commission
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

28 August 2018

Dear Senator Wicker, dear Roger,
Dear Congressman Smith, dear Chris,

I was very sad to hear the news of Senator John McCain's passing earlier this week. His departure will leave a large void in the hallways of the U.S. Capitol and in many capital cities, where so many of us appreciated his frequent visits and his staunch dedication to transatlantic co-operation. I was myself honored to know him personally and participate in numerous memorable meetings in his presence. As a Georgian, I am indebted for his passionate support of Georgia's independence and democratic transformation.

More than anyone, he believed that a strong relationship between the U.S. and Europe is necessary to promote peace and stability across the OSCE area and throughout the world. This week, the OSCE lost a friend whose unwavering commitment to democratic principles made of him a critical voice in our transatlantic community.

Many of us remember fondly his participation in our 2012 Annual Session in Monaco, where he underlined U.S. efforts to sanction human rights offenders and when his words aligned our Assembly with a universal aspiration "for justice, for equal dignity under the law, and for the indomitable spirit of human freedom."

I look forward to continuing to work closely with your delegation and our other American partners to pursue these ideals Senator McCain cherished so dearly.

With deepest sympathy,



George Tsereteli