



AMBASSADE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI  
WASHINGTON, DC

### ***Haiti Week in DC 2017***

*Thank Letter from His Excellency, Mr. Paul Altidor*

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my utmost appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your participation in the Embassy's inaugural ***Haiti Week in DC*** celebration held from May 13<sup>th</sup> until the 21<sup>st</sup>. The past month marked a significant period in the reshaping of Haiti's narrative.

Since 2012, I have dedicated my tenure to shifting the often negative paradigm associated with Haiti that at times cripples its growth. Haiti Week in DC was a unique opportunity to expand on this message with diverse audiences in the Washington metropolitan area and beyond. In collaboration with ***Andy Shallal***, owner of Busboys and Poets and his team, the Embassy was pleased to serve as a platform to unveil the richness and contributions of the Western Hemisphere's first black republic.

Each event highlighted the hidden wealth and essence of the island. The panel discussions and private guided tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) highlighted the contributions of Haiti and notable Haitians. The inspirational sound of internationally acclaimed songstress Emeline Michel (re)introduced the audience to the soul of Haiti through her charismatic and vivacious performance. The Rebuilding Haiti ***pop-up shop*** closed out the week and launched [\*\*\*the Embassy's newest initiative\*\*\*](#) offering a new approach for engaging in the Haiti conversation, with an emphasis on businesses and entrepreneurship. The pop-up shop featured products sourced from Haiti by Haitian-American designers and entrepreneurs.

The featured dish curated by distinguished Haitian Chef Dimitri Lilavois introduced Haiti's gastronomy and was sold out at all Busboys and Poets locations daily. The Embassy's culinary diplomacy continued at this year's Embassy Chef Challenge. Represented by celebrated Haitian Chef Cynthia Verna, I am pleased to share that the Embassy competed against over 30 countries and won the top award, the [\*\*\*People's Choice Award\*\*\*](#).

My friends, Haiti Week in DC was more than a series of events, but a movement in the nation's capital to redirect the negative narrative that often guides the development efforts in Haiti . Again, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at future events organized by the Embassy.

Highlights of the week and media ready albums are available at the following [link](#).  
Media ready photos from the Embassy Chef Challenge can also be accessed [here](#).

My Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Altidor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul G. Altidor  
*Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti to the U.S.*