

Colombia Honors Vice President Biden

President Santos, Ambassador Pinzón Applaud Biden's Longstanding Support for Advancing the U.S.-Colombia Alliance

Washington, DC — Tonight, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón honored U.S. Vice President Joseph R. Biden for his longstanding support for Colombia and efforts to advance the U.S.-Colombia bilateral relationship.

During a dinner hosted at the Ambassador's Residence in Dupont Circle, Vice President Biden was praised for his leadership on instrumental initiatives that have supported Colombia's ongoing transformation in security, trade, investment and poverty reduction.

President Santos said:

"Vice President Biden has been an ally and a real friend to Colombia. He has stood beside our country through one of its darkest moments along our path to a new era of hope. As one of the architects of Plan Colombia in the U.S. Senate, Vice President Biden took a hands-on approach to securing and maintaining bipartisan support for the goal of achieving lasting peace in Colombia.

"... Thanks to your support, we went from a nation on the brink of failure to the most dynamic economy in Latin America. Today, we are now able to help our neighbors in the region with their own security challenges by sharing our experiences and capacity, helping to make the Western Hemisphere a safer place for all of us.

"... Thank you, Vice President Biden, for your genuine friendship and affection for our country. The Colombian people recognize your commitment, your stoicism and your resilient spirit as a husband, a father and a grandfather. We recognize your work not only on behalf of Colombia, but also for the region and the United States."

Guests included Administration officials, members of Congress and representatives of leading U.S. companies, think tanks, media outlets and other dignitaries. The five-course dinner was prepared by world-renowned Colombian chef Harry Sasson, founder of the prestigious restaurant in Bogotá that bears his name, and popular Colombian girl band Ventino performed.

Get to know Colombia.

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