

Translation

The Federal Republic of Germany
The Federal Chancellor

Message of Greeting
on the occasion of the presentation of the Fourteenth Vernon A. Walters Award
by the Atlantik-Brücke to Liz Mohn on 13 June 2008

I would like to congratulate Liz Mohn most sincerely on receiving the Fourteenth Atlantik-Brücke Vernon A. Walters Award. She has fostered cultural, scientific, social and political projects not only across Germany and Europe, but also in Israel and the United States of America in an unparalleled fashion – thanks to her outstanding engagement, her patronage and her profound understanding of the significance of close international relations. She has made a tremendous contribution to the transatlantic partnership, for which she is rightly being honored tonight.

German-American relations would not be the same without Liz Mohn's efforts or without the longstanding contribution made by the Atlantik-Brücke. For the past 18 years this organization has run a program for social studies teachers, to which the money raised this evening will be donated. This project is important, for how young people in America view Germany and their understanding of relations between our two countries is directly dependent on whether they are fed a diet of prejudice and stereotypes, or whether they hear about what Germany is really like today.

Liz Mohn, friends and guests of the Atlantik-Brücke, thank you once again for your extraordinary commitment. From my desk in Berlin, I wish you all a stimulating and successful transatlantic evening in New York.

(sgd) Angela Merkel