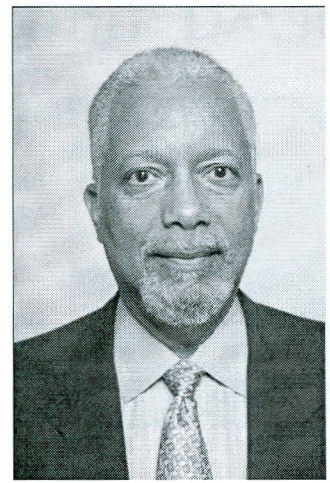


Robert C. Perry

Class of 1963



Ambassador Robert C. Perry (Ret.) currently serves as Vice President for Programs at the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) in Washington, D.C., where he organizes forums and conferences to promote increased trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa. He focuses on fostering partnerships between CCA member companies and counterparts in key countries, such as Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia.

He joined CCA in 2003 after a 34 year career in the U.S. Foreign Service at the Department of State. He retired from the State Department in 2002 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of African where he managed trade promotion under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, public diplomacy and strengthening of democracy in West Africa. As U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic (1999-2001), he coordinated USG support for UN efforts to promote peace and strengthen democracy. His previous assignments included managing a \$100 million counter-narcotics program for Latin America at the State Department, serving as Deputy Chief of Mission in Bolivia and Mauritius, and also assignments in Mexico, Ethiopia, Chile, and Vietnam. Ambassador Perry attended the National Defense University and the State Department's Senior Seminar leadership development program. He speaks Spanish and French.

Ambassador Perry's professional associations include: Trustee of Phelps Stokes (an educational NGO), the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Foreign Service Association, and the Association of Black American Ambassadors. He is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia. Bob earned a B.A. in Political Science from Wittenberg University and a M.A. in International Affairs from American University. He and his wife, Blossom, have two adult children, and five grandchildren.

At Hillside High, Bob was active in the Hillside marching band, the Honor Society, and he served as president of his sophomore and senior classes. In the community, he was acolyte at St. Titus Episcopal Church, and became an Eagle Scout in Troop 55

The National Alumni Association of Hillside High School Salutes one of its own – Robert C. Perry