



**THE OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER
DENISE L. NAPPIER**

PRESS STATEMENT

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**STATEMENT OF STATE TREASURER DENISE L. NAPPIER
ON THE PASSING OF NELSON MANDELA**

HARTFORD, CT – Nelson Mandela was a leader who helped transform South Africa and, indeed, the world, through his courage, his determination, his tolerance, and his message. Only the most remarkable among us could spend 27 years in prison and walk out inspired and emboldened, rather than embittered and defeated.

When Nelson Mandela's African National Congress swept to victory in 1994 and he became president, it was an iconic moment. It was a validation of the possibility of change, and of the aspiration that all men are created equal.

His passion for justice continues to inspire all of us today to improve the political, economic and social conditions of citizens everywhere, in all nations. How can we turn our backs on injustice when we have the image of President Mandela before us, urging us to remain true to the admonition "Love thy neighbor?"

We, in Connecticut, can take pride in knowing that in 1987, our State banned investments in companies that did business in South Africa in support of Mandela's mission of ending racial segregation.

I join with all those who mourn his passing. He was an inspiration to me, and to generations, for he embodied all that is good in a leader.