

NECO PASSPORT

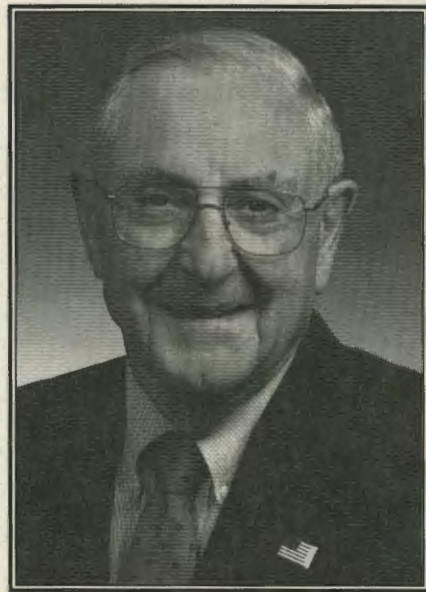


Saturday, May 9, 2009

MEDALIST



ELLIS ISLAND
MEDALS OF HONOR



Hon. Victor G. Atiyeh
Syrian

ELLIS ISLAND

For over 100 years, Ellis Island stood as the symbol of a new beginning for millions of immigrants to America. During its peak years, 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island received thousands of immigrants each day, as many as 12,000 on the single busiest day in 1907. For these people, so much was left behind in exchange for a new life in America - friends and family, customs and traditions, the known and the familiar. They worked, struggled, and achieved.

In 1954 Ellis Island closed its doors as an active immigration station and was opened to the public in 1976 for limited seasonal visitation. A "Restore Ellis Island Committee" was formed in the mid-70's, and in 1984, Ellis Island closed its doors for massive restoration. Under the supervision of the U.S. National Park Service, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation raised the necessary funding totally from private donations, and the architectural firm of Beyer Blinder Belle performed the restoration itself. A once forgotten landmark, the Museum and Island reopened on September 10, 1990, remarkably transformed. Today it is a stunning monument commemorating American immigration heritage. All Americans now have the opportunity to see the place where so many of their parents and grandparents first set foot in this country.

Tonight we welcome Ellis Island Medalists and their guests to Ellis Island. The majesty of the restored buildings, the American Immigrant Wall of Honor, and the Immigration Museum offer us an inspirational setting for our memorable celebration.

DESTINATION ELLIS ISLAND





2009 Ellis Island Medals of Honor

Schedule of Events *Saturday, May 9th, 2009*

*The Department of the Interior requires that all guests bring Photo I.D. All bags are subject to search.
We ask for your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.*

3:30p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Formal Portraits & Registration Ritz Carlton Battery Park Liberty Room / 2nd Floor	<u>Medalists Only</u>
4:00 pm	Private Reception Ritz Carlton Battery Park Manhattan Ballroom-Skyline Vista / 2nd Floor	<u>Medalists Only</u>
4:45 pm–5:00 pm	Ferry Boarding	Spouses & Guests
5:00 pm	Ferry Departs for Ellis Island (arrives Ellis Island 5:15 pm – proceed to tent for <u>your</u> assigned seating section)	Spouses & Guestss
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5:30 p.m.	Arrive Ellis Island <u>Medalists Only</u> proceed up red carpet & assemble in Great Hall (you will be directed)	
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Ellis Island Medals of Honor Ceremony*	
8:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Gala Dinner – Black Tie	Ellis Island Great Hall
11:00 pm	Board Ferry to Battery Park Grucci Fireworks Display	New York Harbor
11:45 p.m.	Ferry Disembarks at Battery Park	

**Please note an additional ferry is scheduled to leave Ellis Island at the conclusion of the ceremony.*

CRITERIA FOR MEDALISTS

THE ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR are awarded annually to a group of distinguished American citizens. Each must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

EXEMPLIFIES a life dedicated to community service.

PRESERVES and celebrates the history, traditions, and values of his/her ancestry group(s).

DEDICATES himself/herself to support and defend the values of American life.

BUILDS bridges between ethnic, racial, and religious groups in the U.S. and/or abroad.

SHARES his or her personal and professional gifts for the benefit of humanity.

It is not necessary for the nominee (or the nominee's ancestors) to have come through Ellis Island to be considered for this award.

NECO

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Held each May on Ellis Island, the event is full of pageantry, grandeur and emotion. All branches of the United States Armed Forces traditionally participate in this spectacular event. Dancers in their native costume add to the international flavor of the celebration. A gala dinner in the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island follows the moving ceremony. As a grand finale, a majestic fireworks display illuminates the sky and America's symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty.

Ellis Island is the gateway through which more than 12 million immigrants passed in their quest for freedom of speech, religion and economic opportunity. Through struggle and sacrifice, these immigrants have built our nation. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor celebrate the richness and diversity of American life, honoring not only individuals, but the pluralism and democracy that have enabled our ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of the American way of life. Both the United States House of Representatives and Senate have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. Each year's recipients are read into the Congressional Record. Past Medalists include six U.S. Presidents, as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

The creation of The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) was based on the conviction of its founders that the diversity of the American people is what makes this nation great. Its mission is to honor and preserve this diversity and to foster tolerance, respect and understanding among religious and ethnic groups.

NECO partners with a wide variety of organizations, both national and international. It supports diverse ethnic cultural events, sponsors life-saving surgery for children, assists emergency relief efforts worldwide, and produces education materials and programs that mentor youth to become the leaders of tomorrow.

NECO made possible the construction of two impressive entrance stones welcoming millions of visitors to the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island. NECO is a co-underwriter of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum's *Peopling of America* Gallery and is proud to have been part of the successful campaign by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation for the American Immigrant wall of Honor. NECO continues its commitment to the restoration and maintenance of Ellis Island, a living tribute to the courage and hope of all immigrants who have built America.

SPONSORED BY NECO

National Ethnic Coalition

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FRIDAY MAY 8

8:28AM Dep. PDX United #722
2:22PM Arr. Chicago
3:05PM Dep. Chicago United #686
6:26PM Arr. NY LaGuardia
6:30/8:30PM Reception @ NMAI
(Ritz-Carlton 1-212-344-0800)
Conf. #80554153

SATURDAY MAY 9

3:30/4:30PM Portrait & Register
Liberty Room - 2nd Floor
4:00PM Private Reception
Manhattan Ballrm. - 2nd floor
5:15PM Ferry Boarding
5:30PM Arr. Ellis Island & assemble
Great Hall
6/8:00PM Honor Ceremony
8:30/11:00PM Gala Dinner
11:00PM Board Ferry

SUNDAY MAY 10

1:00PM Dep. NY United #681
(LaGuardia Airport -stop over)
5:45PM Arr. PDX

Rosemarie Taglione 1-212-755-1492



December 3, 2008

Honorable Victor G. Atiyeh
7690 SW Fairmoor Street
Portland, OR 97225

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

We are delighted to inform you that you have been nominated as a candidate to receive the *Ellis Island Medal of Honor* for 2009. Your nomination was submitted by William A. Hanna.

This exciting, moving ceremony will be held on **Saturday, May 9, 2009** on historic Ellis Island, followed by a special Gala Dinner in honor of our Medalists.

The Medal is presented to outstanding American citizens from all walks of life who have distinguished themselves within their own ethnic groups. They are recognized for their significant contributions to improve the landscape of life in this great country of ours.

NECO is proud that both Houses of Congress have passed resolutions officially recognizing the NECO *Ellis Island Medal of Honor*, which ranks among the nation's most prestigious awards. Past Medalists include Supreme Court justices, Nobel Prize winners, Presidents of the United States, athletes, entertainers, corporate giants and individuals whose inspired service to others has touched their communities and changed lives. A complete list of former Medalists can be found on our web site www.neco.org.

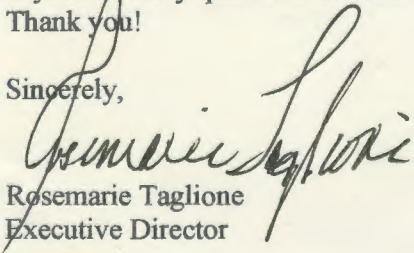
If you are selected to receive this award, it's required that you be present at the ceremony on Saturday, May 9th. Enclosed is descriptive material about the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO), including a short DVD, to illustrate the vast scope of this event. If you are available to attend on that date, please complete the enclosed Nominee Information Form, along with a **one-page bio**, and return to me at the address below, or fax it to **212.755.3762**.

Completed nominations will be reviewed by our Screening Committee, who will then make recommendations to our Board of Directors for final selection. Only citizens of the United States are eligible.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me directly at 212.755.1492.

Thank you!

Sincerely,


Rosemarie Taglione
Executive Director

Encls.

JAN 06 2009
GOV. V. G. ATIYEH
JAN 05 2009
GOVERNOR ATIYEH

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- George M. Steinbrenner, III
- Charles Pei Wang
- Randi Weingarten
- Eli Wiesel
- Wally Zeins



March 16, 2009

Hon. Victor G. Atiyeh
President
Victor Atiyeh & Co.
519 SW Park
Suite 208
Portland, OR 97205

MAY 11 2009
Governor Atiyeh

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

Congratulations! I am delighted to inform you that you have been selected by NECO's Committees to be a recipient of the 2009 *Ellis Island Medal of Honor*. You will soon join the remarkable roster of distinguished American citizens who have already received this honor. The medal will be presented to you on Ellis Island on **Saturday, May 9th**.

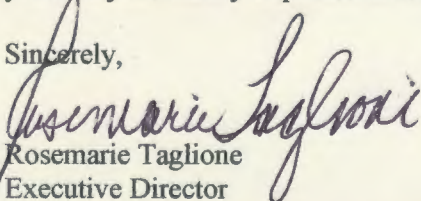
This unforgettable weekend will begin Friday evening, May 8th, with an elegant and festive Pre-Celebration Cocktail Reception, where you will meet your fellow Medalists. On Saturday afternoon, a Medalists-only Reception will be held prior to the Awards Ceremony.

An invitation to the Gala Dinner, which takes place Saturday evening, is enclosed. The Dinner, which is held in the beautifully restored Great Hall on Ellis Island, immediately follows the ceremony. Capping off the evening will be a spectacular fireworks display, presented by the world-famous *Grucci* family, as we set sail back to the battery. Details about tables, as well as tribute pages and advertising in the Commemorative Journal, can be found in the invitation.

Funds raised through the Dinner and the Journal support our many partnership programs. We all know these are challenging times, but for the children whose lives are already marred by poverty and instability -- those we serve through our partnerships -- the ripple effect of this economic downturn is certain to make their lives even worse. *Now, more than ever, we need to stand together and make sure that these underserved children are not neglected.*

We look forward to celebrating with you on May 9th as your influence and achievements truly inspire and touch the lives of people everywhere. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call me at 212.755.1492 ext. 208. I look forward to speaking with you soon, and to meeting you and your family in person at this historic event.

Sincerely,


Rosemarie Taglione
Executive Director

P.S. A past Commemorative Journal and Photo Brochure are enclosed for your information. **Please forward a color head shot of yourself for the Photo Brochure as soon as possible to EllisIslandRose@aol.com or to me at the address below.**

Encls.

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- James S. Scofield
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- Alex G. Spanos
- George M. Steinbrenner, III
- Charles Pei Wang
- Randi Weingarten
- Eli Wiesel
- Wally Zeins



2009 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR

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NOMINEE INFORMATION FORM
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM AND A ONE-PAGE BIO TO NECO.

[X] If I am selected, I will be able to attend.

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

GENERAL INFORMATION (Please Print Clearly)

First Name: VICTOR MI: G Last Name: ATIYEH

Please check one: [X] M [] F

First & Last Name Spelled Phonetically: AH TEE YAH

Title: President

Company: Victor Atiyeh & Co.

Address: 519 SW Park, Suite 208

City/State/Zip: Portland, Oregon 97205

[X] Check here if mailing address is same as above.

Mailing Address:

City/State/Zip:

Business Phone: (503) 222-2244 Fax: (503) 224-3209

Email: victor@atiyeh.com Home Phone: (503) 292-0101

Company Website: N/A

CONTACT PERSON

Name: SEE ABOVE

Phone: (503) 222-2244

Email: victor@atiyeh.com

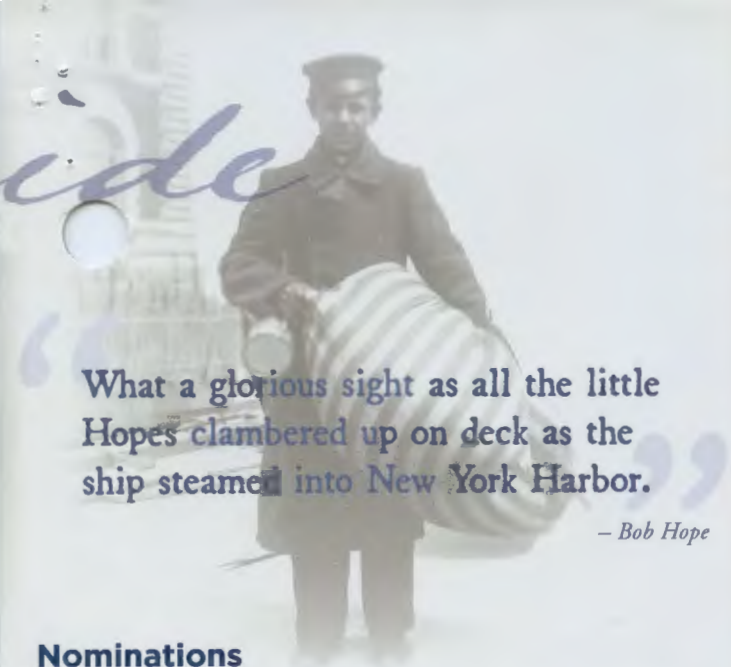
ETHNIC HERITAGE (not religion)

List the country(s) from which your family immigrated to the United States, as it will appear in all publications.

(Father) Syria (Mother) Beirut--then Syria

Please Note:

- Once completed, please mail or fax your bio and this form IMMEDIATELY to NECO at 212.755.3762.
If you need additional information, please call Rosemarie Taglione at 212.755.1492.



What a glorious sight as all the little Hopes clambered up on deck as the ship steamed into New York Harbor.

— Bob Hope

Nominations

Nominations from the public are the first step in the selection process. Anyone may nominate any living U.S. citizen, native or naturalized, for consideration for the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

After all nominations are received, the ballots will be sorted by ancestry group, and Screening Committees from each group will select the most outstanding candidates. The final selection is made by NECO's Board of Directors.



National Ethnic Coalition (NECO)

232 Madison Avenue
Suite 900
New York, NY 10016
telephone 212-755-1492
fax 212-755-3762

www.neco.org

NECO is a 501 (C)(3) organization

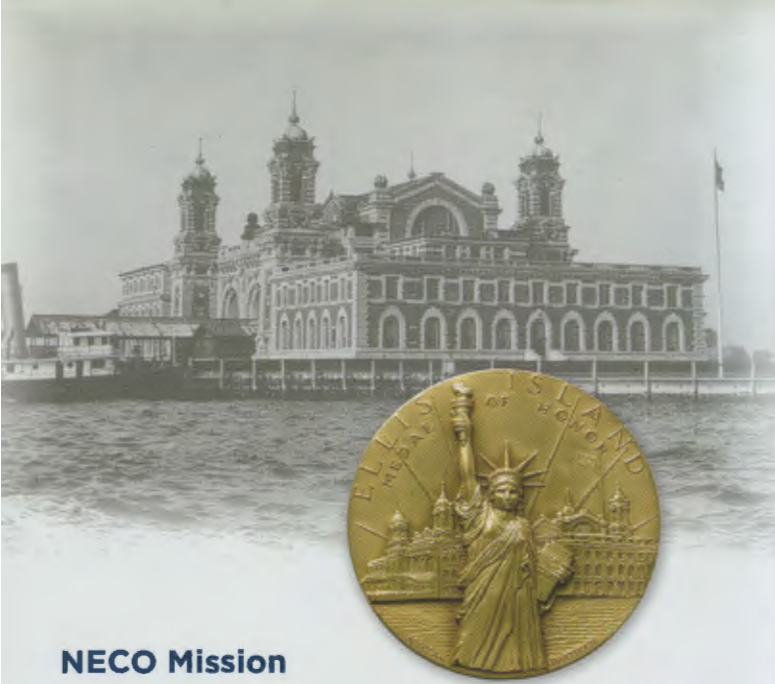


Ellis
Island
Medals
of
Honor

Celebrating Ethnic Diversity

Paying Tribute to Outstanding American Citizens

SPONSORED BY **National Ethnic Coalition (NECO)**



NECO Mission

Celebration, Education, Commitment. The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc., serves as an umbrella for over 250 organizations that celebrate, educate and nurture ethnic pride, heritage, culture, tradition and commerce. NECO was created on the conviction of its founders that the diversity of the American people is what makes this nation great. Its mission is to honor and preserve this diversity and to foster tolerance, respect and understanding among religious and ethnic groups.

NECO's multi-ethnic coalition sponsors a broad range of programs, events and educational initiatives and materials designed to cultivate understanding among individuals and groups.

Additionally, NECO continues its commitment to the restoration and maintenance of Ellis Island, a living tribute to the courage and hope of all immigrants who have built America. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor are presented annually to American citizens of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their own ethnic groups, their ancestral countries and to the United States.

It is this great country which gives us the freedom to give something back.

— Marlo Thomas



This country opened its doors to everybody they called *foreigners*.

— Jerry Stiller

NECO History

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Held each May on Ellis Island, the event is full of pageantry, grandeur and emotion. All branches of the United States Armed Forces traditionally participate in this spectacular event. Dancers in their native costume add to the international flavor of this celebration. A gala dinner in the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island follows the moving ceremony. As a grand finale, a majestic fireworks display illuminates the sky and America's symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty.

Ellis Island is the gateway through which more than 12 million immigrants passed in their quest for freedom of speech, religion and economic opportunity. Through struggle and sacrifice, these immigrants have built our nation. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor celebrates the richness and diversity of American life, honoring not only individuals, but the pluralism and democracy that have enabled our ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of the American way of life. Both the United States House of Representatives and Senate have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Each year's recipients are read into the Congressional Record. Past Medalists include six U.S. Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.



Termination

“ I urge you...never take for granted the privilege of being an American. — Nasser J. Kazeminy

NECO Partnerships

NECO advocates for positive change in the present by forming partnerships with exceptional organizations that serve a wide range of communities and cultures domestically and abroad.

NECO's core values are served through some of the following projects (past and present).

NECO and the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame (NIASHF) have helped level the playing field for Chicago's kids.

The *National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame (NIASHF)* is a spectacular 44,000 square foot facility in the heart of Chicago's Little Italy. *NIASHF* is celebrated for its focus on values and sportsmanship, its world-class memorabilia collection, and its charitable programs, which have provided \$6-million in scholarships to underserved children and generous support for physically-challenged athletes. Funds are distributed without regard to race, creed, or gender. With *NECO's* help, the *NIASHF* is launching an education outreach program titled *A Level Playing Field*, which teaches children the importance of diversity in sports.

NECO and Gift of Life International are healing hearts all over the world.

Since its inception in 1975, *Gift of Life* has surgically treated almost 10,000 children with life-threatening cardiac disorders from scores of countries, including Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Haiti, India, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, Uganda; Ukraine, Zimbabwe, and



Courage

more. Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient, Aldo G. Frustaci, Esq., is former Chairman of this remarkable organization. *NECO* is committed both to underwriting medical costs and to providing transportation to several children who are scheduled for surgery in the near future.

NECO and The Ellis Island Immigration Museum (sponsored by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.) are sharing the important stories of our nation's immigrant history, both in the past and today.

The *Ellis Island Immigration Museum's* brand new *Peopling of America Center* will expand upon the Ellis Island years of immigration to include the entire panorama of the American experience right up to the present day. There will be a special focus on the stories of the New Americans whose numbers are growing exponentially—enriching this nation's character—just as immigration during the Ellis Island era did 100 years ago. To help further this important cause, *NECO* has pledged to raise \$2 million to support the creation of the *Peopling of America Center*. To jumpstart this effort, Chairman Nasser J. Kazeminy has generously pledged to personally match donations made by *NECO* members up to \$200,000.

In addition to its support of the *Peopling of America Center*, *NECO* has underwritten educational materials distributed to Ellis Island visitors and produces and distributes educational materials

Partnerships *continued*

designed to teach school children about our history of immigration and to promote discussion about shared American values.

NECO and Boys Hope Girls Hope are giving hope a place to flourish.

Boys Hope Girls Hope, which operates in 16 U.S. cities, helps academically-capable and motivated children-in-need to meet their full potential by providing value-centered, family-like settings and education through college. When *Boys Hope Girls Hope* of New Orleans suffered the loss of both its homes after Hurricane Katrina, NECO raised funds to help restore and rebuild the houses. Due to the generous support of the NECO family, the New Orleans' *Boys Hope Girls Hope* have not only survived Katrina, but are currently thriving—and helping New Orleans' kids do the same.

NECO is helping to spread music, arts and cultural appreciation throughout the world.

In 2005, NECO was the sponsor of the historic American debut of the *Beijing Opera*. NECO has also promoted visibility for the multi-ethnic *Tarumi Violin Children's Foundation for the Arts*. These young musicians are spreading a message of peace through music. NECO also sponsors ethnic street fairs in New York, where tourists and New Yorkers enjoy the music, dancing and foods of many nations.

NECO and the Children In Need Institute (CINI) are saving lives in some of India's most under-served communities.

CINI is a leading Non Government Organization of India, founded in Calcutta in 1974, by Dr. Samir Chaudhuri, who continues to serve as its Director. NECO proudly supports *CINI's* mission to achieve sustainable development among poor communities living in the city of Calcutta, South 24 Parganas District and surrounding areas. Through its field programs, training and research, the focus has always been on health of women and children, child nutrition and development, adolescent issues and mainstreaming street children through education. Every year, *CINI* rehabilitates over 800 chronically malnourished children at its children's hospital and NECO is committed to continuing its support to help improve the quality of life for those who need it the most.



Ellis Island Medal of Honor Criteria

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor Are awarded annually to a group of distinguished American citizens. Each must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

Exemplifies a life dedicated to community service.

Preserves and celebrates the history, traditions, and values of his/her ancestry group(s).

Builds bridges between ethnic, racial, and religious groups in the U.S. and/or abroad.

Shares his or her personal and professional gifts for the benefit of humanity.

It is not necessary for the nominee (or the nominee's ancestors) to have come through Ellis Island to be considered for this award.

Remove the hyphen from the country and American and there is a oneness, a unity, a sameness.

— U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan





Pre-Celebration Reception

*You and a guest are cordially invited to attend a
Reception
on the eve of the*

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS *of* HONOR AWARDS GALA

*Friday, May 8th 2009
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.*

*National Museum of the American Indian
U.S. Customs House
One Bowling Green
(across from Battery Park)*

*RSVP by April 24th
212.755.1492*



ELLIS ISLAND
MEDALS OF HONOR

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Ellis Island Medals of Honor Ceremony
recognizing individuals who have made
outstanding contributions to our nation*

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2009



*Ellis Island Medals of Honor Ceremony
on Ellis Island
6:00 PM*



*Gala Dinner
Honoring the Medalists
in the Great Hall
Immediately Follows Ceremony*



*Spectacular Fireworks Display by Grucci
Black Tie*

RSVP 212.755.1492 ext. 208



NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS (NECO)

Chairman

Nasser J. Kazeminy

President

Maurice A. Buckley

Vice-Chairs

Helene Irma derStepanian

Hon. Louis J. Freeh

William Denis Fugazy, Jr.

John B. Goodman

Brian O'Dwyer, Esq.

Executive Director

Rosemarie Taglione

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR GALA

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Eugene M. Holuka, MD
Adib Kassis
Do-Young Kim
Joseph Pizza

George Randazzo
H.R. Shah
Charles Pei Wang
Elie Wiesel
Mira Zivkovich

Law Enforcement Liason

Wallace R. Zeins

Military Liaison

Col. Eugene V. Lombardo (Ret.)

Masters of Ceremony

Tom Dreesen
Marvin Scott

Congratulations to this year's Ellis Island Medal of Honor Recipients who serve as important role models on the front line of action — doing whatever they have done — and can do — to share their incredible wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, enormous compassion and great talent and selfless generosity of spirit.



ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD GALA 1986-2008*

Hon. Madeleine Albright	Dr. Anthony S. Fauci	Evelyn H. Lauder	Dith Pran
Muhammad Ali	Hon. Geraldine Ferraro	Dr. Henry C. Lee	President Ronald Reagan
Amb. Elizabeth Frawley Bagley	Renee Fleming, Opera Diva	Susan Lucci	Chief Justice William Rehnquist
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian	President Gerald R. Ford	Chief Wilma Mankiller, Cherokee	Hon. Janet Reno
Johnny Bench	Abraham H. Foxman	Mickey Mantle	Mary Lou Retton
H.E. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin	Hon. Louis J. Freeh	Peter Max, Artist	Hon. Thomas Ridge
Yogi Berra	Hon. Rudolph W. Giuliani	Hon. John McCain	H.E. Met. Philip Saliba
Sen. Joseph Biden	Astronaut John Glenn	Bonnie McElveen-Hunter	Pierre Salinger
Dr. Gunter Blobel, Nobel Prize	Hon. Frank J. Guarini	Sen. Robert Menendez	Diane Sawyer
Ernest Borgnine	Gen. Alexander Haig	Robert Merrill	Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf
Justice Stephen G. Breyer	Alex Haley (Posthumously)	Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski	Eric Sevareid
Rep. Dan Burton	Helen Hayes	Larry A. Mizel	Siegfried & Roy
President George H.W. Bush	Barron Hilton	Sen. George Mitchell	Frank Sinatra
President Jimmy Carter	Lou Holtz	Mitchell Modell	Gary A. Sinise
Hon. Elaine L. Chao	Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks	Sen. Samuel Mok	Alfred E. Smith IV
Cesar E. Chavez	Bob Hope	Hon. Robert Morgenthau	Sir Michael W.J. Smurfit
Dr. Deepak Chopra	Lee A. Iacocca	Rupert Murdoch	Mona So
Mary Higgins Clark	Archbishop Iakovos	Dr. Firouz M. Naderi	Rabbi Ronald B. Sobel
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton	Roy Innis	ADM Robert J. Natter, USN	Archbishop Spyridon
President William J. Clinton	Hon. Sterling Johnson, Jr.	Martina Navratilova	George M. Steinbrenner, III
Jerry Colangelo	Quincy Jones	LeRoy Neiman, Artist	Danny Thomas
Claudette Colbert	Rep. Barbara Jordan	Wayne Newton	Marlo Thomas
New York Gov. Mario Cuomo	Hon. Raymond W. Nelly	H.E. John Cardinal O'Connor	Donald J. Trump
Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley	Kathleen Kennedy Townsend	Hon. Paul O'Dwyer	Stephen J. Trachtenberg
Vic Damone	Coretta Scott King	Arnold Palmer	Lillian Vernon
Dr. Michael E. DeBakey	Dr. Henry Kissinger	Rosa Parks	Eli Wallach
Joe DiMaggio	Kamil Kubik, Artist	Hon. George E. Pataki	Barbara Walters
NY Mayor David N. Dinkins	Rep. Ray LaHood	Gregory Peck	Walter Wang
Phil Donohue	A. Alexander Lari	Itzhak Perlman	Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize
Michael Douglas	Anthony J. Lariccia	Carl Pohlad	Margaret W. Wong
Gloria Estefan	Tommy Lasorda	Gen. Colin L. Powell	Aldona Z. Wos, MD

* A complete list of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients appears on our website www.neco.org.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!



ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR AWARD GALA

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2009



FREEDOM

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I'll lift my lamp beside the golden door!



Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Each year the Ellis Island Medals of Honor ceremony celebrates the immigrant experience on Ellis Island, through which millions of immigrants passed on their way to a new life in America.

Both the United States Senate and House of Representatives have officially passed resolutions recognizing the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, which ranks among this country's most prestigious awards. Each year, Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients are listed in the Congressional Record, honoring those who have made enduring contributions to our nation and to the world.

NECO's mission is to create the world of the future today, by honoring our diverse past, advocating for positive change in the present, and building strong leaders for the future. The foundation partners with a wide variety of organizations, both national and international. It supports diverse ethnic cultural events, sponsors life-saving surgery for children, assists emergency relief efforts worldwide, and produces educational materials and programs that mentor youth to become the leaders of tomorrow.

NECO made possible the construction of two impressive entrance stones welcoming millions of visitors to the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island. NECO is a co-underwriter of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum's Peopling of America Gallery and is proud to have been part of the successful campaign by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation for the American Immigrant Wall of Honor. NECO continues its commitment to the on-going restoration and expansion of the Peopling of America project.

The level of NECO's commitment and the degree of our determination to make a positive impact on people's - especially children's - lives continues to rise with each partnership we form and each life we save.

The organizations and people affiliated with NECO consistently raise the expectations and standards of excellence, generosity and humanity. We continue to move forward together and reach out to the world, changing and healing it along the way. The journey continues. The possibilities are endless.