

privilege of entering into the RECORD the names of the individuals who have been awarded the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations [NECO] 1995 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

NECO's distinguished board chairman is Mr. William Denis Fugazy. NECO, founded in 1984, is the only organization in the United States of America that celebrates the ethnic diversity of the American population. NECO also serves as a watchdog for ethnic, racial, and religious injustice, and has been a constant voice and vigorous advocate for ethnic unity and pride in America. One of its programs is the Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

Each year since 1986, NECO has recognized America's ethnic diversity by honoring the achievements and contributions of ethnic Americans in all professions, including government, entertainment, business and industry, sports, health care, and communications. NECO's Ellis Island Medals of Honor embody the true spirit of what makes the United States unique among the world's nations.

Many of our country's ethnic groups have no direct connection to Ellis Island. However, NECO rightly views Ellis Island as a landmark and symbol of the shared experiences of all immigrant groups that have landed on our soil. Most have come to our shores because they were the targets of ethnic, racial, and religious hatred, discrimination, stereotyping, and prejudice. Many continued to experience this intolerance in America itself.

NECO strives to eliminate this hatred. Through the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, NECO celebrates ethnic diversity and the great contributions of immigrants to the American experience. Whether they have entered past Lady Liberty in New York Harbor, John F. Kennedy International Airport, or through San Francisco Bay; whether they are native Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, or others who have not entered this country through Ellis Island; NECO's Ellis Island Medals of Honor embrace all ethnic Americans who call this great country home.

Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations 1995 Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients. I extend my congratulations to this very distinguished group of Americans.

The recipients follow:

1995 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR  
RECIPIENTS

Dr. Mihran S. Agbalian; Mr. Raul Alarcon, Jr.; Hon. Madeleine Korbel Albright; Mr. George E. Altomare; Mr. Richard T. Anderson; Mr. Marion H. Antonini; Mr. Carlos J. Arboleya; Mr. Robert T. Aspromonte; Mr. Ronald G. Assaf; Mr. Frank Assumma; Mr. William L. Ayers, Jr.; Mr. Alan L. Bain; Dr. Gwendolyn Calvert Baker; Mr. Stephen Bartolin, Jr.; Ms. Barbara W. Bell; Mr. Geza T. Bodnar; Ms. Helen F. Boehm; Mr. Edgar Bronfman, Jr.; Hon. Joseph L. Bruno; Ms. Donna Grucci Butler; Stanley Q. Casey; Hon. Bernadette Castro; Mr. Leon H. Charney; Mr. Muzaffar A. Chishti; Mr. Philip Christopher;

Mr. Richard J. Ciecka; Mr. Anthony J. Colavita, Esq.; Hon. Clay Constantinou; Rev. John J. Cremins, Ph.D.; Sr. Camille D'Arienzo; Mr. Vic Damone; Ms. Donna de Varona; Mr. Papken S. Der Torossian; Brig. Gen. Robert C.G. Disney; Ms. Kathleen A. Donovan; Mr. Robert B. Engel; Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, MD; Mr. Arthur V. Ferrara; Dr. George S. Ferzli, M.D., F.A.C.S.; Mr. Arnold L. Fisher; Mr. George P. Gabriel; Hon. Charles A. Gargano; Mr. Arie Genger; Ms. Kathie Lee Gifford; Mr. David Giladi; Ms. Bozena Urbanowicz Gilbride; Mr. James F. Gill; Mr. Sandy Ginsberg; Mr. Michael Goodwin; Mr. Per Hellman; Hon. Alan G. Hevesi. ●

INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF  
UNITED STATES-FLAG VESSELS  
IN UNITED STATES-JAPAN  
TRADE

● Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, during the ongoing debate about autos and autoparts, much has been said about how our domestic companies have been denied a chance to compete in Japan on the basis of quality and price. I rise today to describe to my colleagues a similar problem faced by United States companies seeking to enter the trade carrying automobiles between Japan and the United States under the United States flag.

At present, only three United States-flag vessels operate in the United States-Japan trade. I understand the Department of Defense and our trade negotiators are aware of proposals to increase United States-flag participation in this trade, including a significant one to construct a fleet of 10 refrigerated car carriers to carry vehicles from Japan to the United States and produce and other refrigerated products, as well as automobiles, to Japan at commercially competitive rates.

I am particularly interested in this type of proposal because it would lead to the construction of new ships in U.S. shipyards. As my colleagues no doubt appreciate, we must do something to help our shipyards supplement their military work with commercial orders. The president of the American Shipbuilding Association, for example, recently pointed out in a letter to Members of Congress that "[c]onstruction of military sealift ships is critical to the Nation's defense, to sustaining the Navy's shipbuilding base, and to our industry's efforts to supplement declining orders with commercial work." By encouraging the entry of new U.S.-built vessels equipped with national defense features in this trade, Congress and the administration can help preserve rapidly dwindling seafaring manpower and skills, save or create a significant number of jobs in the shipbuilding and supplier industrial base, and assist U.S. shipyards in reentering the commercial shipbuilding market.

At my request, the Department of Defense recently completed a study of the costs and benefits of an active Ready Reserve Force Program employing privately owned commercial ships equipped with national defense features as an alternative to the currently inac-

tive Ready Reserve Force fleet. The report demonstrates that an active Ready Reserve Force Program, comprised of newly U.S.-built commercial vehicle carriers equipped with national defense features, would have important benefits and would be substantially more cost effective than acquiring and converting existing foreign-built ships. The report noted, however, that securing entry into the commercial market will be a critical element for the success of the program.

In my view, entry of these vessels into the United States-Japan trade would enhance our national security. Equipped with national defense features, such as hoistable strengthened decks, these vessels would be well adapted for carrying both heavy equipment and ammunition. Moreover, a fleet of this size in normal commercial operation in the United States-Japan auto trade would ensure vessels would be available for loading at designated ports of embarkation within the time demands for the Ready Reserve Force contemplated in an emergency.

I therefore urge the Department of Defense and our trade negotiators in ongoing discussions and negotiations to emphasize to the Government of Japan the importance of augmenting American participation in this trade as a means of advancing the mutual defense and security interests of our two nations. ●

DR. KERRY BEEBE—OPTOMETRIST  
OF THE YEAR

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding Minnesotan who has been chosen as the American Optometric Association's 1995 "Optometrist of the Year."

A resident of Brainerd, MI, Dr. Kerry Beebe was selected from more than 27,000 doctors for his significant contributions to the discipline of optometry.

Since 1985, Dr. Beebe has taken an active role in promoting the agenda of Minnesota's Optometric Association's legislative steering committee by spending countless hours lobbying, fundraising and speaking on issues important to optometry and the patients it serves.

In addition, Dr. Beebe has participated in a number of community service activities including serving as a member of the Brainerd Area Chamber of Commerce, Brainerd Lions Club, Brainerd Jaycees, Ducks Unlimited, and as an advisory board member to the Kingwood Good Samaritan Nursing Home.

In 1992, Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson appointed Dr. Beebe to the Rural Health Advisory Commission which was established to facilitate the implementation of health care reform on a regional basis. He was also appointed by the Minnesota Commissioner of