

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN UTE
CHAIRMAN LEONARD C. BURCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life and passing of a truly visionary leader. As Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado, Leonard Burch worked tirelessly to elevate his tribe to a place of national prominence and improve the welfare of its members. I have great pride as I rise to highlight Chairman Burch's accomplishments and years of service to the State of Colorado.

The Southern Ute Tribe found a leader with vision for the long-term when they elected Leonard to serve as Chairman in 1967. Despite a soft-spoken demeanor, Chairman Burch exuded a strong presence, and elected officials throughout my state held him in high regard. Chairman Burch built on these partnerships to help pass the statute creating the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs in 1976. Chairman Burch's high standard of public service and strong leadership style will serve as an example for generations of future leaders.

Chairman Burch was widely renowned for his caring personality and dedication to the long-term development of the Southern Ute Tribe. His policies as tribal Chairman focused on energy development, the health of his fellow tribe members, and the education of tribal youth. While he cared for the entire tribe's well being, Chairman Burch's focus never strayed from his family. He always spoke proudly of his seven daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress to pay tribute to Leonard Burch for his devotion to his family, dedication to his community, and the leadership he offered to the Southern Ute Tribe. His legacy is evident in the enhanced self-determination, opportunity, and sovereignty that his fellow tribe members enjoy today. While he will be dearly missed, we can all take solace in the knowledge that Chairman Burch's spirit lives on through those whom he has touched.

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR
AWARDS CEREMONY—NECO
CHAIRMAN WILLIAM DENIS
FUGAZY LEADS DRAMATIC
CEREMONY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

ELLIS ISLAND, NY, May 17.—Standing on the hallowed grounds of Ellis Island—the portal through which 17 million immigrants entered the United States—a cast of ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to the life of this nation were presented with the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor at an emotionally uplifting ceremony. This year's event was dedicated to our armed forces.

This year's ceremony date coincides with National Armed Forces Day. As such, we

would like to pay special tribute to the men and women serving in the U.S. armed forces both here and abroad. Several of our Medalists also serve in the armed forces; many more are honored veterans.

NECO's annual medal ceremony and reception on Ellis Island in New York Harbor is the Nation's largest celebration of ethnic pride. Representing a rainbow of ethnic origins, this year's recipients received their awards in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the U.S. in the latter part of the nineteenth century. "Today we honor great ethnic Americans who, through their achievements and contributions, and in the spirit of their ethnic origins, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations," said NECO Chairman William Denis Fugazy. "In addition, we honor the immigrant experience—those who passed through this Great Hall decades ago, and the new immigrants who arrive on American soil seeking opportunity."

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique culture mosaic. To date, approximately 2000 American citizens have received medals.

NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the U.S. serving as an umbrella group for over 250 ethnic organizations and whose mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony, and to combat injustice, hatred and bigotry. NECO has a new goal in its humanitarian mission: saving the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions. NECO has founded The Forum's Children Foundation, which brings children from developing nations in need of life-saving surgery to the United States for treatment.

Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients are selected each year through a national nomination process. Screening committees from NECO's member organizations select the final nominees, who are then considered by the Board of Directors.

Past Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients have included several U.S. Presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders and business executives, such as William Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, George Bush, Richard Nixon, George Pataki, Mario Cuomo, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Michael Douglas, Gloria Estefan, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Elie Wiesel, Muhammad Ali, Mickey Mantle, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Barbara Walters, Terry Anderson, Dr. Michael DeBakey, Senator John McCain, Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General Janet Reno.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2003 ELLIS ISLAND
MEDALS OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Ruth J. Abram, President, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Romanian/Irish/Russian; Danny Aiello, Actor, Italian; Hon. Hagop S. Akiskal, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of California at San Diego, Armenian; Hon. William Vollie Alexander, Managing Partner, Alexander & Associates, Scottish/English/Irish; Menelaos Anastasios Aliapoulos, M.D., Medical Director, General Electric Company, Hellenic; Hon. Hushang Ansary, Parman Group, Iranian; Angela Susan Anton, CEO & Publisher, Long Island Community Newspapers, Czechoslovakian/Italian; William Austin, Chairman & CEO, Starkey Laboratories Inc., English; Robert P. Badavas, Chief Operating Officer, Atlas Venture, Hellenic; Peter Balakian, Professor, Colgate University, Armenian; Roger Ballou, President & CEO, CDI Corporation, English/Scottish/French; Salvatore A.

Balsamo, Chairman, Tac World Wide Companies, Italian; Peggy L.S. Barmore, Assistant to the President, NYSUT, African/Irish; Peter J. Barris, Managing General Partner, New Enterprise Associates, Hellenic; Anthony J. Bifaro, Assistant to the President, NYSUT, Italian; Michael Bolton, Bolton Music Company, Russian/English; Capt. Craig E. Bone, Commanding Officer & Commander of the Port NY & NJ, Coast Guard Activities, English/Irish/German; George Boyadjieff, Chairman, Varco International, Inc., Bulgarian/Russian; Albert A. Boyajian, President & CEO, Global Bakeries, Inc., Armenian; Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., President Emeritus, Bronx Community College—CUNY, African; Bishop William Brown, Pastor, Founder & Chairman, Salvation & Deliverance Church, South African; John A. Canning, Jr., President, Madison Dearborn Partners, Irish/Italian; Terrel L. Cass, President & General Manager, WLIV 21—NY Public Television, Irish/English; Myron Z. Chlavin, CEO, Desser Tire & Rubber Co., Austrian/Latvian; Msgr. Eugene V. Clark, Rector, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Irish/Dutch; Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, Commander, 77th Regional Support Command US Army Reserve, Scottish; Francis X. Comerford, President & General Manager, WNBC, Irish/Italian; Leo P. Condakes, President, Peter Condakes Co., Hellenic; Alexander A. Conti, Financial Representative, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Italian; Thomas J. Corcoran, Jr., President & CEO, FelCor Lodging Trust Inc., English; Thomas M. Coughlin, President & CEO, Wal-Mart Stores & Sam's Clubs USA, Irish; Hon. Anthony J. Cutrona, Supreme Court Justice—NYS Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial Department, Italian.

Salvatore A. Davino, President, Fidelity Land Development Corp., Italian; Commander Carlos Del Toro, US Naval Forces, Cuban; Vincent DeMentri, Anchor/Correspondent, WPIX-TV, Italian; John E. Durante, President, Rockledge Equities, Italian; Umberto P. Fedeli, Jr., President & CEO, The Fedeli Group, Italian; Charles A. Feghali, President, Interstate Resources, Inc., Lebanese; John J. Flynn, President, Int'l Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Irish; Colonel Warren J. Foersch, Commander, First Marine Corps District—US Marines, French/German/Irish; Hon. James S. Gallas, US Magistrate Judge, US District Court—Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, Hellenic; Luther R. Gatling, President, Budget & Credit Counseling Services, Inc., African; Richard A. Goldstein, Chairman & CEO, International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., Russian; Hon. Joseph G. Golia, Associate Justice, Appellate Term, 2nd & 11th Judicial District, Supreme Court of the State of NY, Italian; John George Gonis, D.D.S., Chairman & President, Dental Associates, LTD, Hellenic; Andy Granatelli, Former CEO & President (Retired), STP Corporation, Italian; James T. Hackett, Chairman, President & CEO, Ocean Energy, Inc., Irish/German; Val J. Halamandaris, Esq., President, National Association for Homecare & Hospice, Hellenic; Thomas E. Hales, Chairman, President & CEO, Union State Bank, Italian/Irish; Taek Sun Han, Founder & CEO, Han Yang Supermarket/Han Yang Cultural Center/Morning Glory Stationery World, South Korean; Michael J. Handy, Director, Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, African/English/Native American; Russell Hotzler, Interim President, York College, CUNY, Italian/German; Sayed Jemal Houssein-Afghani, Inc., Humanitarian, Afghan/English; Ronald C. Jones, Secretary, United Federation of Teachers, Italian.

Georgia Kaloidis, CEO, Diskal, Inc., Hellenic; Frank S. Kamberos, Former VP Operations, Treasure Island Foods, Inc., Hellenic;