



A. Alexander Lari

The Claremont Group is headed by A. Alexander Lari, a New York University graduate holding both a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. His experience is divided between construction projects in the Middle East and real estate developments in the New York Metropolitan area.

As a principal of a group of construction firms he co-founded in the 1970's in Iran, Lari built large-scale industrial and residential projects. His projects varied from cement plants, an Olympic sports complex, a manufacturing plant, a steel pipe mill, mining plants, gas gathering plants, pump stations for oil and over 3,000 residential units. In 1979, the Group, which employed over 5,000 men and completed \$130 million in construction was seized and subsequently nationalized after the Iranian Revolution.

In 1979, Lari formed the Claremont Group in New York, which soon developed a number of successful real estate projects in the New York Metropolitan area. Projects varied from high-rise condominiums in New York City to suburban office buildings. The Claremont House, built in 1988 in the heart of Manhattan's Upper East Side Landmark District on East 72nd Street and Park Avenue, is one of the most prestigious and successful projects of its kind. The acquisition of Summit and Schaffer Filter, one of the largest manufacturers of dry filter products in the northeast expanded the Group's activity into manufacturing.

During the 1990's, Lari diversified the Group into hotel development, and sales and service of construction equipment. With the development of The Claremont Corporate Center in the early 1990's and the acquisition of 99 Wall Street in 2004, the Group further expanded its development of office buildings, some of which were leased to the Federal Government. Claremont has built and leased several office projects to the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 8 Union Square South, the Group's latest project, is a fifteen-story modern concrete and glass residential tower in Manhattan.

With the slowdown of the U.S. economy, in 2009 the Group expanded into international development projects on areas of immense growth and opportunity. The Group is developing a major residential community in the Northern Iraqi semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan. Claremont has worked in close concert with the local government and a U.S. Government bank to bring 1,600 new housing units, a Hilton and a Hyatt Hotel to the Region.

Commitment to traditional family values and continuity forms the basis of the Group's next generation of family ownership. Stephen Lari and John Lari, along with a team of over 100 professionals and other employees, oversee the day-to-day management of the Claremont Group and its affiliates.

Over the years, Alex Lari has actively participated in fund-raising efforts for a number of candidates in local and national United States elections.

Lari was awarded the 2003 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding citizenship, individual achievement, and encouragement of cultural unity. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is sanctioned by the United States Congress. The medals were conceived to pay tribute to the immigrant experience and remarkable individual achievements.

Lari is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Councils of America National Organization. WACA is a nationwide association of educational member organizations, which serves more than 80 communities across the United States. It is a non-profit, non-partisan association dedicated to educating and engaging the American people in international affairs.

He is also a Director of the Board of the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit, New York based organization dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world. Founded in 1918, it also serves as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding of and providing informed opinions on global issues.

In addition, he is a founder and Director of the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans. PAAIA is the largest non-profit independent organization that represents the domestic interest of the Iranian American community before the U.S. policy makers, opinion makers and American public at large. PAAIA works to expand the opportunities for the active participation of Iranian Americans in the democratic process at all levels of government and in the public debate, and to foster greater understanding of the community and its Persian heritage.

Lari is the sponsor of a book project, *Eminent Persians*, published in 2010. The book is a collection of 150 biographical portraits of Iranians who played a significant role in developing contemporary Iran prior to the Revolution. It is an accurate, impartial, scholarly and readable account of the lives of those who helped shape the economic, cultural and political life of that era.