



CLAREMONT GROUP

5

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PRESS RELEASE

Ellis Island Medal of Honor Awarded to A. Alexander Lari

New York, NY, (May 17, 2003) – Founder and Chairman of Claremont Group, LLC, A. Alexander Lari has been awarded the 2003 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding citizenship, individual achievement, and encouragement of cultural unity. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was presented at a ceremony and gala black-tie reception in the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island. All branches of the United States Armed Forces traditionally participate in this spectacular event, as they herald the arrival of the honorees onto Ellis Island.

Among those named to receive the 2003 award along with Lari included: Mike Wallace of CBS/60 Minutes, Jim Wright, Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mary Lou Retton, the Olympic Champion, entertainer Michael Bolton, film director Martin Scorsese, Commander Carlos Del Toro, Head of U.S. Naval Forces, Thomas Coughlin, President and CEO of Wal-Mart, David Komansky, Chairman of Merrill Lynch and Henri Landwirth, Founder of Give Kids the World. The honorees were remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the distinct values and rich heritage of their ancestors.

Pervious recipients of the Medal of Honor have included Presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon; Governor George Pataki; Senators Patrick Moynihan, John Glenn; General Norman Schwarzkopf; Dr. Michael DeBakey; Coretta Scott King; Rosa Parks; Muhammad Ali; Elie Wiesel and Joe DiMagio; television personalities Walter Cronkite, and Barbara Walters; and entertainers Frank Sinatra, Danny Thomas, Bob Hope and many other statesmen, Nobel Laureates, educators, business and religious leaders.

Lari is being recognized for his more than 20 years of business leadership and his contributions to America. “I am honored to find myself among such extraordinary individuals who have done so much good for so many Americans. I will accept this award only as an encouragement to new Americans that with hard work and perseverance they can also reach their American dream” said Lari.

The award was presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), the largest organization of its kind in the U.S., serving as an umbrella group for over 350 ethnic organizations representing over five million families. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is sanctioned by the United States Congress. The medals were conceived to pay tribute to the immigrant experience, remarkable individual achievements, and above all, the spirit that makes America unique among nations. NECO’s mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony, and combat injustice, haltered, and bigotry.