

Food and Agricultural Research Act of 1995 leading to the creation and funding of the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR). He subsequently promoted public involvement in research priority setting through C-FAR representation, a move that attracted national attention as a model for reenergizing land-grant universities and empowering their constituents.

Dr. Holt's past contributions to Illinois and U.S. Agriculture have brought about a firestorm of progressive change. With his unique but clear vision of the future, he is able to see the changing nature of agriculture beyond the horizon and can anticipate how educational and research institutions can best prepare to meet the needs of individuals who will conduct business in the changing environment.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Donald A. Holt has had a long and distinguished career that will have an impact on agriculture far into the future. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished gentleman for all he has done for agriculture and for the country.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL RUSSELL C. DAVIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant General Russell C. Davis, who is retiring from the National Guard after forty-four years of exemplary service, as a member of the US Air Force and National Guard of the United States.

General Davis has had a distinguished career of service to our nation's defense. He began his military career in the US Air Force in 1958 as an aviation cadet. While on active duty, he served as a B-47 strategic bombardment pilot at Lincoln Air Force Base, Nebraska. He then joined the Iowa Air National Guard, where he transitioned to fighter pilot, and served in numerous command and staff positions, from squadron pilot to Director of Operations. He commanded the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing prior to being appointed the Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard.

General Davis is retiring from his current position as Chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB). The President appointed him Chief, NGB, in 1998. As Chief, NGB, he served as the senior uniformed National Guard officer responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting more than half million Army and Air National Guard personnel. As Chief, NGB, General Davis has served as the Army and Air Forces' official channel of communication with the governors and the Adjutants General of the states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia.

General Davis epitomizes the citizen-soldier. His career has reflected his unswerving integrity and high moral principles. He retires with over four thousand seven hundred flying hours in bomber and fighter aircraft. His numerous awards and decorations serve as a testament to his dedication, commitment, contributions, and sacrifice.

It is our hope that you will join us as we salute Lieutenant General Russell C. Davis on

the occasion of his retirement from the National Guard and wish him continued high flight.

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

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, On behalf of Ellis Island Medals of Honor Ceremonies, I am submitting the following statement for the RECORD.

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 the memory of those individuals whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001.

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."

Mr. Fugazy added, "it doesn't matter how you got here or if you already were here. Ellis Island is a symbol of the freedom, diversity and opportunity ingredients inherent in the fabric of this nation. Although many recipients have no familial ties to Ellis Island, their ancestors share similar histories of struggle and hope for a better life here."

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. To date, approximately 1500 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 needing 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 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 2002 Ellis Island Medals of Honor Recipients:

Abel Abrahamson, Chairman Emeritus/Co-Founder, Norwegian Immigration Assoc., Norwegian; William Achenbaum, President, S/A Associates, Russian; Elias S. Adamopoulos, M.D., President, Piraeus Realty Corp., Hellenic; Hector Alcalde, Chairman & CEO, Alcalde & Fay, Spanish; Kurt Aschermann, Sr. Vice President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, German/Austrian/Italian; Lawrence Auriana, Chairman, Federated Kaufman Fund, Italian; Kenneth E. Behring, CEO & Founder, Wheelchair Foundation, German; Hon. Cornelius Blackshear, Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, African; Barbara Blair, CEO, Cyberstaff, Russian; Michael J. Brescia, M.D., Sr. V.P. & Exec. Med. Dir., Calvary Hospital, Italian; Lt. Gen. Bryan D. Brown, Commanding General, US Army Special Operations Command, Irish; Jeanette Grasselli Brown, Chair, Ohio Board of Regents, Hungarian; Maurice A. Buckley, President & CEO, Irish Chamber of Commerce in the USA, English/Irish; Preston C. Caruthers, General Partner, Carfam II Associates, L.P., Scottish/English; Steven W. Casteel, Assist. Admin. For Intelligence, US Dept of Justice, Dutch; Peter Castellana, Jr., President & CEO, Western Beef, Inc., Irish/Italian; Joseph R. Cerrell, Chairman & CEO, Cerrell Associates, Inc., Italian/French; Stephen Cherpelis, CEO, Stephen Cherpelis Enterprises, Inc., Hellenic; Hon. Michael Chertoff, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Russian/Polish; Stanley M. Chesley, Attorney, Waite, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley Co., Ukrainian; Michael V. Ciresi, Partner & Chairman, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P., Italian; Anthony S. Colavita, Esq., Attorney and Councilman, Italian/Irish; William J. Collis, M.D., Founder & Ophthalmic Surgeon, Kentucky Eye Institute, Hellenic; Martin E. Cooperman, Managing Partner, Grant Thornton, Russian/Polish; Salvatore J. Cumella, M.D., Executive Producer/President "Women to Women" Radio Show, Cumella Professional Services Inc., Italian; John C. Cushman III, Chairman, Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., English/Dutch.

Lucia Grieco Danzi, 100 years old, Italian; Oscar Davis, Chairman, Hayward Industries, Inc., Hungarian; Gen. Raymond G. Davis, USMC, United States Marine Corps, Scottish/German; Joseph J. DePaolo, President & CEO, Signature Bank, Italian; Thomas B. Doolan, President & CEO, TBD & Associates Inc., Irish; Harry A. Dorian Esq., Armenian; Thomas C. Eakin, President, Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, Scottish/Irish/English; Marvin E. Eisenstadt, President, Cumberland Packing Corp., Russian; Terrence A. Elkes, Principal, Apollo Partners LLC, Russian/Polish; Eugene C. Enlow, Chairman & CEO, Atlantic Detroit Diesel-Allison, German; Joseph Anthony Esposito, President & CEO, eResearch Technology, Italian; John H. Eyler, Jr., Chairman & CEO, Toys 'R' Us, Inc., English/German/Irish; John Joseph Fareri, President, Fareri Associates, L.P., Italian; George N. Faris, Chairman & CEO, American International, Petroleum Corporation, Lebanese; John P. Ferguson, President & CEO, Hackensack University Medical Center, Irish/Italian, Scottish; John Fitzpatrick, CEO,