

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR AWARD GALA

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2009



REEDOM

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!



Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Each year the Ellis Island Medals of Honor ceremony celebrates the immigrant experience on Ellis Island, through which millions of immigrants passed on their way to a new life in America.

Both the United States Senate and House of Representatives have officially passed resolutions recognizing the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, which ranks among this country's most prestigious awards. Each year, Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients are listed in the Congressional Record, honoring those who have made enduring contributions to our nation and to the world.

NECO's mission is to create the world of the future today, by honoring our diverse past, advocating for positive change in the present, and building strong leaders for the future. The foundation partners with a wide variety of organizations, both national and international. It supports diverse ethnic cultural events, sponsors life-saving surgery for children, assists emergency relief efforts worldwide, and produces educational materials and programs that mentor youth to become the leaders of tomorrow.

NECO made possible the construction of two impressive entrance stones welcoming millions of visitors to the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island. NECO is a co-underwriter of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum's Peopling of America Gallery and is proud to have been part of the successful campaign by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation for the American Immigrant Wall of Honor. NECO continues its commitment to the on-going restoration and expansion of the Peopling of America project.

The level of NECO's commitment and the degree of our determination to make a positive impact on people's - especially children's - lives continues to rise with each partnership we form and each life we save.

The organizations and people affiliated with NECO consistently raise the expectations and standards of excellence, generosity and humanity. We continue to move forward together and reach out to the world, changing and healing it along the way. The journey continues. The possibilities are endless.