

1/14/2008 - Congressman Sires Receives Outstanding American By Choice Recognition From USCIS

(Washington, D.C.) - Tomorrow, Congressman Sires will receive the Outstanding American by Choice Award from Director Emilio González, of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

For Immediate Release

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(Washington, D.C.) - Tomorrow, Congressman Sires will receive the Outstanding American by Choice Award from Director Emilio González, of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services created the Outstanding American by Choice Award to recognize the exceptional achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Recipients of this honor display extraordinary civic and professional achievement and leadership while embodying the values and ideals inherent to our country.

"I am very pleased to participate in this ceremony designed to recognize the magnitude of immigrant contributions to our wonderful country. I am truly honored to receive this award," said Congressman Sires.

Congressman Sires was born in 1951 in the Cuban town of Bejucal, where he grew up in the waning years of pre-Communist Cuba. His family left Cuba in January 1962, with the help of relatives in America, and eventually settled in West New York.

In 2006, Congressman Albio Sires, was elected to serve the 13th Congressional District of New Jersey in the United States House of Representatives. Previously Congressman Sires has served as New Jersey Speaker of the General Assembly and has been the Mayor of the Town of West New York in Hudson County from 1995 to 2006. Albio Sires is the first legislator of Hispanic origin to be named Assembly Speaker.

"Over forty years ago, I emigrated from Cuba with my family in search of a better life. I could never have envisioned at that time that I would receive this honor," said Congressman Sires. "I could never have envisioned that through hard work, not only would I become a proud citizen of the United States, but I would reach a position capable of helping other citizens realize their own American dreams."

During each year, through the Outstanding American by Choice initiative, USCIS Director Emilio González recognizes naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their community and their adopted country. Tomorrow's ceremony will also recognize Congressman Pete Hoekstra, Anh Duong, Science Advisor at The Pentagon, Major General John Fugh, 33rd JAG of the U.S. Army, and Duncan Wardle, Vice President at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts with the award, and several immigrants will be naturalized as U.S. citizens.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services carries out federal immigration policies, including the naturalization services. DHS Deputy Secretary Paul Schneider will also be on hand to honor the recipients.

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