



## **Owens-Illinois Chairman Joseph Lemieux Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award**

May 14, 2001

TOLEDO, Ohio, May 14 /PRNewswire/ -- Joseph H. Lemieux, chairman and chief executive officer of Owens-Illinois, Inc., is a 2001 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award.

This year's honorees received their awards in a ceremony in the Great Hall on Ellis Island in New York Harbor on May 12. The 2001 recipients include actor Jamie Farr, novelist Mary Higgins Clark, Metropolitan Opera general manager Joseph Volpe, and New York first lady Margaret Pataki.

The award was established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO). It recognizes Americans from all walks of life for their significant contributions to their country.

Of English and Canadian descent, Mr. Lemieux is a native of Providence, R.I. He joined Owens-Illinois in 1957. He has served as chief executive officer since 1990 and as chairman of the board of directors since 1991. Owens-Illinois is one of the world's leading manufacturers of glass containers and plastics packaging products, with operations on five continents, annual sales of more than \$5.5 billion, and 34,000 employees.

In 1997, Mr. Lemieux received the Phoenix Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the glass industry. In 1992, he was named Manufacturer of the Year by the California Manufacturers Association. Mr. Lemieux is a 1957 graduate of Bryant College and received an honorary doctor of business administration degree from the college in 1994.

Ellis Island Medal 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 of directors. It is not necessary for nominees or their ancestors to have come through Ellis Island.

To date, some 1,300 ethnic American citizens and Native Americans have received medals. Past recipients have included several U.S. presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, and business executives.

NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the U.S. It serves as an umbrella group for more than 350 ethnic organizations whose mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony, and combat injustice, hatred and bigotry.

SOURCE Owens-Illinois, Inc.

Web site: <http://www.O-I.com>

Company News On-Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/117254.html> or fax, 800-758-5804, ext. 117254

CONTACT: