

Ambassador Duke

Please enjoy the music and the dancing, and we will soon bring you our guests of honor.

Let me go on and extend our welcome to our other very distinguished friends. I want to present to you tonight the Permanent Representative to the United Nations from Kyrgyzstan, Ambassador and Mrs. Atabekov; and to go on; The Ambassador to the United States the Ambassador of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic Ambassador and Mrs. Zantovsky; the Cultural Counselor, Embassy of the Russian Federation and Mrs. Potomkin; the Counsel General of the Russian Federation and Mrs. Kouznetsov, and I would like to close and extend a particular warm welcome to the newly appointed and new arrival from the State of Israel, the Consul General of Israel, Colette Avital. And to the Consul General of Ukraine and Mrs. Kryzhanovsky, and the Consul General of Italy and Mrs. Boniver, and the Consul General of Greece and Mrs. Stratos.

Welcome to you all.

Now we come to the main business of our event this evening. And we do enter the holiday season, and I would like to describe a scene that is going to take place on Christmas Day down on Wall Street - at the Merrill Lynch headquarters, and its offices around the world there will be bus loads of senior citizens, many of them immigrants, migrants and refugees who will be

coming in from their senior citizens residences, and greeted warmly there by the Merrill Lynch employees, and then they're invited to telephone anybody, any place in the world. And some of their calls take an eternity to put through, because they are going through to primitive places on backward phone lines, but I must say, that the opportunity for them to call on their loved ones around the world, their opportunity to get through to long-lost friends and relatives is gratifying and heartwarming. And that wonderful idea, that wonderful custom and that Wall Street tradition was started 15 years ago by one of our awardees tonight, William A. Schreyer, the Chairman of the Board of Merrill Lynch, a man who was once described as the spirit of Merrill Lynch, from Wall Street to Main Street.

Now, he's been the head of that firm since 1984, and he's not only been responsible for the remarkable, tremendous growth of that financial services giant, but he's also directed, he also adopted, his firm has adopted 250 students, from 10 inter-city schools in New York and 9 other cities around our nation. "Stay in School," said the company, "Stay in School," says Bill Schreyer, and we'll take care of your college or vocational study course. But these are not just promises to send checks. The Merrill Lynch employees are actively engaged in working with these children on a regular basis. It's an inspiring example of what the American corporate community can do to improve the life and the lot of the less privileged.

Now, Bill Schreyer's efforts on behalf of the community are truly exemplary. This year, he's chairman of the Tri-State United Way Campaign. He's chairman of the Boy Scouts of America Cub World Campaign, and that list goes on and on. But I want to sum it up with words that he inspires his co-workers, that a vote, what General Schwartzkopf uses when he calls his "Rule 13". "When giving a command, take charge," and he follows that with what he calls "13A", "When you take charge, do the right thing."

That's Bill Schreyer, and that's why he's a man of conscience honoree to receive our Appeal of Conscience Award tonight, and I ask Bill Schreyer to step up with our President, Rabbi Schneier.

Bill, congratulations.

Arthur, what does it say on that award.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation does not believe in bronze plaques. We believe in a Steuben crystal star. But more importantly the message,

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. With our best wishes and congratulations to Man of Conscience, Bill Schreyer."