



January 24, 2007

# Press Release

## USCIS recognizes Four Outstanding Americans by Choice

WASHINGTON - Four *Outstanding Americans by Choice* were recognized today by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Emilio González at a special White House ceremony.

"These *Outstanding Americans* made a decision to give back to their communities, and for this, they have earned our gratitude," said Director Gonzalez. "In return for their solemn oath of allegiance, these immigrants benefited as citizens of a free society that rewards hard work and tenacity with the gifts of unlimited opportunity for any man or woman, regardless of background, beliefs or birthplace."

The *Outstanding American by Choice* initiative recognizes the significant achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to our Nation and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. Since 2006, Director González has presented the Outstanding American by Choice certificate to naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their community and their adopted country. Previous recipients include: Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, Senator Mel Martinez, and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad.

Hosted by the White House Office of Public Liaison, the event in the Indian Treaty Room in the West Wing honored four naturalized Americans who have distinguished themselves through public service, military service, academics and art.

Outstanding Americans by Choice:

Manuel Diaz (Cuba) – Mayor of Miami

Dr. Ricardo Ernst (Venezuela) - Co-director of the Global Logistics Research Program at Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business

Miguel Orozco (Ecuador) – Marine Corps Veteran, Lawyer

Alejandro Gómez Monteverde (Mexico) – Award winning filmmaker and Director

For photos of the event and additional information, please visit [our website](#).

-USCIS-