



**TURKISH
HERITAGE
ORGANIZATION**

**CENTER OF TURKISH-
AMERICAN RELATIONS**

[For Immediate Release]

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**TURKISH HERITAGE ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT ALI CINAR RECIPIENT OF 2019
ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR**

(WASHINGTON, D.C. MAY 13, 2019) Turkish Heritage Organization President Ali Cinar was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and was the youngest Turkish American to receive this distinction in over 30 years. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is an American award founded by the Ellis Island Honors Society (EIHS) which are presented annually to American citizens whose accomplishments in their field and inspired service to the U.S are cause for celebration. Past medalists include U.S. Presidents, global trailblazers, Nobel Prize winners and countless leaders of industry. These leaders have made an effort to make freedom, liberty and compassion a part of their life's work. Along with Cinar, other Turkish-Americans were awarded this honor including Coca Cola Chairman of the Board of Directors Muhtar Kent and Internet Marketing Association Chairman Sinan Kanatsiz.

Ajay Banha, Mastercard CEO, **Virginia Rometty**, IBM CEO, **Adam Schiff**, Member of Congress, **Eric Schmidt**, Former Google CEO, **Richard Ashooh**, Assistant Secretary at U.S. Department of Commerce, **Major General Philip Churn, Sr**, **Vice Admiral Mary Jackson** and many more distinguished medalists were recipients of 2019 Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

"I am honored to receive this prestigious U.S. award. It is a great honor both for me and for the Turkish-American community," said President of THO, Ali Çınar.

Ali Cinar is a Turkish American who has dedicated much of his life to Turkish American causes and joined the Turkish Heritage Organization to help advance U.S.-Turkey relations. He has served as the President of the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) as well as the Northeast Vice President of the Assembly of Turkish American Association. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke praised Cinar's leadership of the FTAA, noting that under his leadership, "this Federation has become a well-known and respected institution in our community."

Prior to joining THO, Cinar worked as a businessman and journalist. In his career, Cinar has developed and implemented business programs for top global clients and agent networks. Over the course of his career, Cinar has earned a number of accolades including Leader of the Year by the Assembly of Turkish American Association, One of the Top 10 Most Successful Young People by Junior Chamber International (JCI), and one of the 50 Most Influential Turkish Americans by Turk of America Magazine.

To learn more about about the Turkish Heritage Organization visit our website be found here: <https://www.turkheritage.org/> or contact THO Communications Manager Savannah Lane and for more information about the Ellis Island Medal of Honor visit the website: <http://www.eihonors.org/>.
