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# News Release

## **USCIS DIRECTOR RECEIVES DAR AWARD**

Eduardo Aguirre Honored by Daughters of the American Revolution

Washington, DC — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Director Eduardo Aguirre received the prestigious Americanism Medal last night from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) during the group's annual national convention. The award was presented to Director Aguirre during an Award's Dinner held at DAR National Headquarters.

Director Aguirre joins a select number of American citizens who have received the Americanism Award. The award recognizes naturalized U.S. citizens who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, trustworthiness, service and patriotism. In addition, recipients must have actively assisted others in becoming U.S. citizens or have displayed an outstanding ability in community affairs. The award was established in establishment in 1958.

Director Aguirre is the first Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an Under Secretary rank position in the Department of Homeland Security. President George W. Bush nominated him to this key leadership position, in February 2003. The U.S. Senate, recognizing his managerial and business skills, international perspective, risk management experience and commitment to service would be valuable assets for USCIS, Homeland Security and the Nation, confirmed the nomination on June 19, 2003.

Director Aguirre is charged with fundamentally transforming the delivery of services by the U.S. immigration system. He leads a team of 15,000 who annually serve over 6 million applicants. The USCIS basic mission is to make certain that the right applicant receives the right benefit in the right amount of time, while preventing the wrong individuals from obtaining America's immigration benefits. Under Director Aguirre's leadership USCIS established three basic priorities: Eliminating the immigration benefit application backlog, improving customer service, while enhancing national security.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security.