



Barack H. Obama
President of the United States

"You have witnessed great milestones in the history of our Nation and the world, and your life represents an important part of the American narrative. From your commitment to building bridges of peace, to your efforts to advance cultural and religious tolerance, you have touched the lives of countless individuals."



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice President of the United States

"You have lived a noble life, one worth celebrating. You have set an example of leadership by promoting the causes of religious freedom, human rights, and interfaith cooperation. You have overcome unfathomable religious intolerance, and spent a lifetime making sure others can do the same. You are a survivor, to be sure - but you are also a teacher, a leader, and, to me, a dear friend."



Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

"Your longstanding efforts to promote religious tolerance and human rights have rightly won global plaudits and admiration. The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which you continue to run with unwavering dedication, exemplifies the kind of principled and practical approach we need to provide an antidote to extremism and divisiveness."



Kofi Annan
Former Secretary-General
of the United Nations

"The many messages are testimony to the remarkable contribution you have made to peace and dialogue around the world."



Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of Israel

"I continue to admire your tireless efforts to rebuild and revive Jewish life in Israel and the Diaspora, and to advance the cause of religious freedom and human rights around the world. I have no doubt that your indefatigable spirit will ensure that your remarkable work continues for many years to come."



Shimon Peres
Former President of Israel

"Your central role in elevating the standing of Judaism and in building bridges of cooperation and understanding between Jews and Christians has been of note. Indeed, your distinctive contribution in this domain has been significant and merits recognition."



Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York

"Rabbi Schneier is a giant in this city. He has devoted himself so passionately, so deeply, not only to the community he loves but to bringing all communities together. He epitomizes all that's good about this city. He is a blessing to all of us."



Michael R. Bloomberg
Former Mayor of the City of New York

"As the founder and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, the Senior Rabbi of Park East Synagogue, and a religious leader who is respected by people of all denominations, you have done so much to promote international peace, interfaith dialogue, and human rights. Your efforts have not only enriched the lives of the countless New Yorkers who rely on you for spiritual guidance, but also helped to create a stronger future for people around the world."



Presidential Citizens Medal, presented by President William J. Clinton: "A Holocaust survivor, Rabbi Arthur Schneier has devoted a lifetime to overcoming the forces of hatred and intolerance. As an international envoy, Chairman of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, he has set an inspiring example of spiritual leadership by encouraging interfaith dialogue and inter-cultural understanding and promoting the cause of religious freedom around the world."



Officer of the Legion of Honor, for "a man of peace and an exceptional individual who dedicated his entire life to bringing people of every faith closer together; the caliber of the services rendered to France and the attachment demonstrated to France."



Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his "commitment and dedication devoted to tolerance, justice and humanity."



Knight Commander of the Order of Civil Merit of the Kingdom of Spain, for "outstanding work in promoting the objectives of peace and tolerance between peoples of different cultures and beliefs that inspire the Alliance of Civilizations."



The Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity for "humanitarian outreach, his efforts to better relations between the United States and Italy and for his leadership as a bridge builder between cultures and religious communities around the world."



Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his "outstanding merits in developing the Polish-Jewish dialogue and for spreading the knowledge about the centuries-long Jewish tradition in Poland."



Grand Decoration of Honor in Gold with Star for Special Services to the Republic of Austria, for his "contribution to Austrian - US relations and the advancement of peace, freedom and resolution of ethnic conflicts."



Commander's Cross with the Star of the Order of the Republic of Hungary for his "efforts to promote and support religious freedom, human rights and tolerance and his contribution to the strengthening of ties between Hungary and the United States."



Grand Order of King Dmitar Zvonimir with Sash and Star of Croatia for his "leadership on behalf of religious freedom, human rights, and inter-religious dialogue, and his contribution to peace and reconciliation in South-East Europe."



Cited by the **Honorable Colin L. Powell** "for life-long devotion to the cause of human rights and religious freedom and for his ecumenical work, in favor of mutual understanding, tolerance and peace in the resolution of ethnic conflicts throughout the world."



Cited by the **Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton** "in recognition of his commitment and partnership for over 30 years in helping foreign professionals better understand the complex issues surrounding religious life and the right to religious freedom in the countries in which they serve."



Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize, Hofstra University for "fostering religious tolerance and cooperation."



Order of St. Andrew the Apostle Athenagoras Human Rights Award for his "contributions to the improvement of tolerance and peace among all religions throughout the world."



Order of St. Daniel of Moscow for his "leadership in inter-religious cooperation and the strengthening of ties between American religious communities and the Russian Orthodox Church."



APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE

FOUNDATION

1965 - 2015

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Congressional Luncheon

as Members of the United States Congress honor
its Founder and President



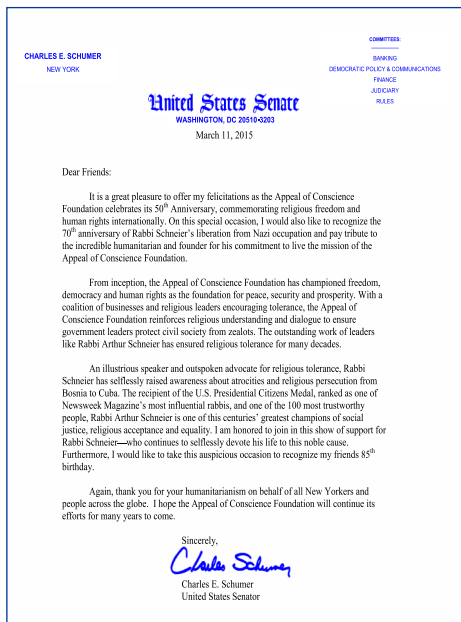
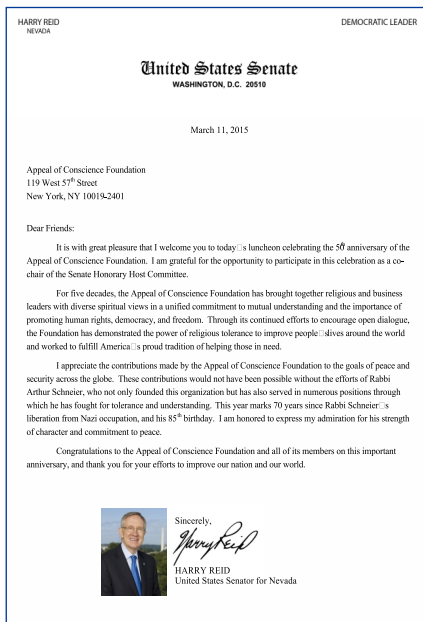
Rabbi Arthur Schneier

Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Room

March 11, 2015

**US Capitol
Washington, DC**

Honorary Host Committee



Tributes to the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and Rabbi Arthur Schneier



Pope Francis
*Delivered by: Pietro Cardinal Parolin,
Secretary of State of the Holy See*

"I bring you the prayerful best wishes of His Holiness Pope Francis, who fully shares your conviction that a crime committed in the name of religion is the greatest crime against religion itself...and his appreciation for all those who work to protect and promote fundamental human freedoms, including religious freedom."



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
*Delivered by: Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone,
Secretary of State of the Holy See*

"His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has asked me to convey his prayerful good wishes. He takes this occasion to express his appreciation of your lifelong efforts to promote inter-religious dialogue, freedom of conscience, and the ethical values which undergird just and peaceful relations between individuals and peoples."



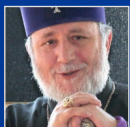
**Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew I**

"Sentiments of joy and appreciation fill our hearts when we contemplate the tremendous amount of work you have done locally and internationally in pursuit of equality and justice for people of every race and creed."



**Patriarch Kirill of Moscow
and all Russia**

"As a consistent proponent of asserting a lasting peace with justice, you have dedicated many years of life to the cause of promoting dialogue between religions and civilizations. You have made a considerable contribution to promoting traditional values through long-standing cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Church."



**Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch,
Catholicos of all Armenians**

"It gives us great pleasure to reflect on your lifetime of achievements, a life lived in harmony with with your brothers and sisters of different faiths and diverse backgrounds. You have been graced by heaven to a live a life of example and inspiration to others."



**Timothy Cardinal Dolan,
Archbishop of New York**

"Your long service to our community -- both as prominent rabbi and a voice of conscience for those undefended and unrepresented -- has brought us bountiful blessings from God. You have never hesitated to build bridges wherever possible, bringing peace and stability to countless situations of conflict. Most especially, your work in the Appeal of Conscience Foundation has drawn together interfaith leaders from every community on the globe."



**Theodore Cardinal McCarrick,
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington**

"You have always been fearless in promoting the dignity of every human being and their rights to freedom of religion and to be treated as a true child of the Creator. I have been struck by that courage as it has always been a mark of your personality and your leadership. I wish I had the ability to imitate it because it is a wonderful gift that you bring to all of your encounters with people all over the world."



**Allahshukur Pasha-Zadeh,
Chief of Caucasus Muslim Board**

"It is a great honor for me to partner with your efforts for peace, tolerance, interfaith cooperation and dialogue among civilizations."



**Archbishop Demetrios,
Primate of the Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of America**

"As I reflect on the many occasions for collaboration in promoting interfaith dialogue, intercultural understanding and advocating religious freedom, my prayers of thanksgiving to God echo the words of the Psalmist, *O continue thy loving kindness unto them that know Thee and Thy righteousness to the upright of heart* (Pslams 36:10)."



**Archbishop Khajag Barsamian,
Primate of the Diocese of the
Armenian Church of America**

"I honor the noble qualities of soul you embody: your profound faith; your sense of security in your roots, and in the vocation God has bestowed upon you and your people; the pride you feel in your homeland, and in our adopted country America.

I consider it a great privilege to have worked beside you in the interfaith and human rights movements. And I am proud to say that I regard you as one of the greatest teachers and mentors of my ministry. It has been an education to travel the world with you, to observe how comfortable you are with heads of state and religious leaders, no less than with average people from every culture and walk of life."



**Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau of Tel Aviv
and Chairman of Yad Vashem**

"My most dear friend, Rabbi Avraham Tzvi (Arthur) Schneier is a builder of world renown. He is a great builder of bridges, bridging east and west, the past and the future, the religious and the secular, the State of Israel and the Diaspora, the Jewish People and the other nations. May God grant him the opportunity to build many such bridges up to the age of 120 years."



**Dr. Mustafa Cerić,
Grand Mufti Emeritus of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

"I hope you will accept my most sincere appreciation for all you continue to do to promote greater understanding and peace among the faithful of all traditions and all who seek a more peaceful and collaborative world."



**Chief Rabbi Emeritus Lord
Jonathan Sacks of England**

"Rabbi Arthur Schneier, one of the great rabbis of the world, Holocaust survivor, has devoted his life to sanctifying life, and to bringing reconciliation in place of conflict.

He single-handedly ensured that after 9/11 the World Economic Forum moved from its traditional base in Davos, Switzerland, to New York in solidarity with the citizens of this great city. And it was his suggestion likewise that the leaders of all the great faiths gather there in prayer. Truly this is a unique hero of our times, a man who has lived his life in the spirit of Hillel's great words, "Seek peace and pursue it."