

Remarks of

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**ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE AND
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TRADEMARKS**

Before the

***FIFTH ANNUAL RONALD H. BROWN
AMERICAN INNOVATOR AWARD CEREMONY***

October 14, 1999

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Fifth Annual Ronald H. Brown American Innovator Award Ceremony. I am delighted that we have brought this great event home this year, so that members of our PTO family can join us in honoring four American heroes.

In the day-to-day work that goes on at the PTO, we sometimes can lose sight of the bigger picture -- of just what our patent system is all about. Today's ceremony is an opportunity to step back and celebrate that system and all the people who make it possible. And to ensure that every member of the audience has an opportunity to participate, we'll conclude this afternoon's program with a question and answer dialogue with our honorees.

I want to first thank Lorraine Armstead, a member of the PTO community for 11 and a half years, for her beautiful rendition of our national anthem. Lorraine is currently a legal instrument examiner in the Office of Initial Patent Examination. She graduated from PTO University last Spring, and she is a shining example of our very dedicated and talented staff. Thank you, Lorraine.

The PTO, under the leadership of former Commissioner Lehman, and the Department of Commerce established the American Innovator Award in 1995 to recognize our nation's heroes of invention. In 1996, the Award was renamed in memory of the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who made the establishment of this honor possible.

Secretary Brown saw this award as a celebration of the inventive process' role in our economy -- and a celebration of the creative spirit that has characterized our nation since its founding. So, in honoring these inventors today, we also pay a special tribute to the vision and leadership of Ron Brown, a truly dedicated and innovative public servant.

The Ronald H. Brown American Innovator Award stands as a lasting tribute to his leadership and his enthusiastic support of the American intellectual property system. And we are very honored by the ongoing support of the Brown family for this award -- and the presence again this year of Alma Brown.

This award, as many of you know, is given each year to the living American inventors who are inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. This year's recipients -- Donald Campbell, James West, Bryan Molloy, and Klaus Schmiegel -- exemplify the curiosity and dedication that invention demands. Their work has had a profound impact on our quality of life, the creation of industries and jobs, and the progress of science and the useful arts.

America's inventors and entrepreneurs, like our four honorees today, have played a crucial role in making our nation envied throughout the world. Our technological prowess, our high standard of living -- all of it stems from the creativity, determination, and entrepreneurial drive of our inventors.

Their -- and their predecessors' -- inclination to challenge the scientific and intellectual status quo has served our nation well throughout the last two centuries. (And that's an understatement). So, as we prepare to enter the

next millennium, we look to our inventors to ensure that our nation's intellectual property -- a critical national resource -- remains #1.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce a great friend and supporter of our office and the patent system, the Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Robert Mallet.

[Mallet and Alma Brown speak]

Thank you, Alma, and thank you, Deputy Secretary Mallet. I know I speak for the entire PTO family when I say we greatly appreciate your participation in today's ceremony.

Our first honoree comes from a field that I have a particular appreciation for, in light of my previous work for Chevron and Sun Oil Company. Our honoree was part of a team that discovered a way to stretch our petroleum supplies just when we needed it most -- during World War II.

[roll Campbell video]

For his work in helping invent the Fluidized Bed Catalytic Cracking System, we are pleased to present the Ronald H. Brown American Innovator Award to Donald L. Campbell. Accepting on Mr. Campbell's behalf is his son, Michael.

[Campbell makes remarks]

And speaking of World War II. It was the catalyst for many inventions...but not everyone was eager to accept credit for their innovations.

[roll Hedy Lemar video]

The next recipient of the Ronald H. Brown American Innovator Award is the co-inventor of a product that is essential to anyone who wants to be heard. In fact, it is so essential that one billion of them are manufactured every year.

[roll West video]

For co-inventing the electret microphone, we are very pleased to present the Ronald H. Brown American Innovator Award to James E. West.

[West makes remarks]

Over 19 million Americans suffer from some form of depression. Less than 20 years ago, treatment options for depression were very limited, often not successful, and sometimes dangerous. Thanks to our next two honorees, we now have a treatment that has changed all of that. World-wide, more than 35 million people have used this innovative anti-depressant.

[roll Molloy-Schmiegel video]

For inventing Prozac, we are very proud to present the Ronald H. Brown American Innovator Award to Dr. Bryan B. Molloy and Dr. Klaus K. Schmiegel.

[Molloy and Schmiegel make remarks]

As I noted earlier, we have been presenting this award for five years. One of our awards that first year went to Dr. Robert Seiwald, co-inventor of the first useful antibody labeling agent now used for identifying infectious diseases. Ever since then, Dr. Seiwald has returned for each year's award ceremony. He and his wife are with us again this year. Would you please stand Dr. Seiwald. Thank you.

This concludes the awards portion of our program. Now it's your turn to join in a dialogue with our distinguished guests. We have microphones -- electret I'm sure -- in the audience, so please come forward and join in conversation with this year's honorees.

Thank you all very much.