John G. Rangos of Pittsburgh, president and chief executive officer of Chambers Development Co., Inc., received the highest honor of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the 1991 National Patriots Award in Washington at the Society's awards dinner, Jan. 30, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

The Patriots Award is bestowed upon outstanding Americans who embody the spirit of patriotism. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is comprised of 215 members.

Rangos said he is deeply honored by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's award, and considers the "Patriots Award is both a great honor and a tremendous responsibility for me. The recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor are among the truly great heroes of this country, and I am proud to be recognized by their Society. I hope to meet the challenges of the future in a manner worthy of the ideals represented by this unique award."

Prior to Rangos' acceptance speech, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Edward J. Derwinski addressed the guests. The program concluded with a presentation by the Military District of Washington of "Old Glory," a historical pageant featuring music, narrative and historical tableaux.

Among those in attendance was Vice President Dan Quayle, who hosted a reception for Rangos, members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and past Patriots Award winners at his office in the Old Executive Building on the 29th.

Earlier in the day on the 30th, 51 members of Congress honored Rangos at a Capitol Hill reception hosted by Sens. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), George Mitchell (D-Maine), Robert Dole of Kansas and Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, and which was attended by Archbishop Iakovos.

"John Rangos was chosen to receive the 1991 Patriots Award because of his outstanding leadership and a vision of a better tomorrow for us and for our children," said Society President J. Elliott Williams in making the presentation. "As a businessman, he is committed to implementing environmentally sound solutions to one of the major problems facing this country, waste disposal. He is also a community leader who is dedicated to health and educa-
tion,” Williams continued. The Society is particularly impressed by Mr. Rangos’ tireless efforts on behalf of children, especially his work for the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. The Patriots Award is being given in recognition of his vision of the future, and his commitment to the values which make America strong.”

Chambers Development Co. is a Pittsburgh-based environmental services firm. The company is the fourth largest such enterprise in the United States with estimated revenues of $250 million in 1990. The firm has operations in 21 states and has compiled an outstanding record of service, environmental protection and cost-effectiveness with the 100 municipalities and 24,000 business to which Chambers provides services.

As president of Chambers, Rangos has overseen the invention of new techniques for recycling bituminous by-products, and disposing of sewage sludge and liquid industrial wastes. He is responsible for the development of a resource recovery system which converts waste-generated methane into energy. Chambers was also an early advocate of recycling as an integral part of its environmental services program.

During the 1960s, Rangos pioneered technological advances in waste transportation and disposal, resource recovery and recycling. His innovations included converting powerplant boiler ash into a useful product for cinder block material and anti-skid material for highways.

“Chambers recognizes the interdependence between the environment and economics, which we call ‘environomics,’” said Rangos. “That means that recycling and safeguarding the environment are more cost-effective in the long run than repairing the damage caused by environmental short-cuts. Cooperation between business and government can result in safe solutions for the community and the environment. Chambers has at all times met or exceeded compliance with government regulations. I am an ardent environmentalist — after all, I have grandchildren.”

He continued, “The key to our growth has been our exemplary environmental record. Environmental performance is a key element in our marketing strategy, and we have a track record to prove our commitment.”

The son of a Greek restaurant owner, Rangos was born in West Virginia and raised in Pittsburgh. He is a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Army. He began his career with Rockwell Manufacturing Co., where he gained the distinction of being the youngest general
agent in Rockwell's history.

Rangos is a major benefactor of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. His $3 million gift has endowed Rangos Research Center, a premier pediatrics research facility. He created and chairs the annual riverboat "Cruise for Kids" benefit, which raised more than $250,000 in the past two years for the Hospital's Free Care Fund. He also is a board member of the Leukemia Society of America and Carnegie Mellon Institute. He also serves on the boards of Pittsburgh Opera and Duquesne University.

In 1988, Rangos was elected an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

Most recently, Rangos was named 1990 Man of the Year for Business and Labor by the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. Other recent awards include "1990 Man of the Year in Business," given by the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and "Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year," given by the National Society of Fundraising Executives.

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