



Item: VII. a.

Thursday, November 12, 2015

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE NOMINATION

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Request approval of the conferral of Honorary Doctorate on Mr. Leon Charney

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

University Policy 2.3 (Honorary Doctorates) specifies that those nominated for Honorary Doctorates be recommended to the FAU Board of Trustees by the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee, the Provost and the President. One candidate is being recommended at this time.

Mr. Charney is renowned as a lawyer, author, broadcaster, real estate mogul, political advisor and philanthropist. A graduate of Yeshiva University and Brooklyn Law School, he holds the honorary title as the Chairman of the University of Haifa in Israel. He is a highly respected philanthropist having donated to New York University's Medical Center for a cardiac wing and the University of Haifa's Leon. H. Charney School of Marine Sciences.

Mr. Charney hosts a national weekly television show, Leon Charney Report, which addresses local New York politics, foreign affairs, the Middle East and social and cultural affairs. He is the author of four books. *Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace* subsequently became the basis for the critically acclaimed documentary film of the same name.

Mr. Charney's most outstanding contribution to public service occurred during the 1970s during the negotiations over the Camp David Accords. The signing of the Camp David Accords stabilized the relationship between Israel and Egypt and served as a model for other bilateral accords between Israel and its neighbors.

Mr. Charney is being nominated for an honorary doctorate degree for his many good works, including his lasting contributions to international security and his promotion of peaceful resolution of conflict among nations.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

If approved, this Honorary Doctorate will be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

Supporting Documentation:

Presented by:

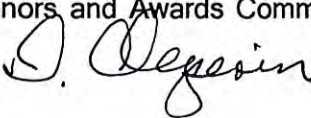
Nomination materials

**Gary W. Perry, Provost
Phone: 561-297-2955**



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Memorandum

DATE: October 2, 2015
TO: Evangelos Kaisar, Chairperson
University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee
FROM: Diane Alperin, Vice Provost 
Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: **Request for Honorary Doctorate**

Dr. Heather Coltman, Dean, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, has nominated **Mr. Leon Charney** for an Honorary Doctorate. I have attached the nomination materials.

Following FAU's Honorary Doctorates Policy (University Policy 2.3), I am forwarding the portfolio to you for review by the UFS Honors and Awards Committee.

Thanking you and the committee in advance for their time and attention.

Cc: Gary Perry, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Heather Coltman, Dean, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Chris Beetle, President, University Faculty Senate



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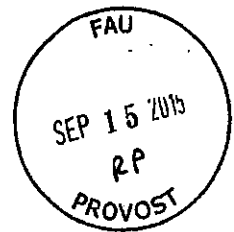
MEMORANDUM

To: President John Kelly
Provost Gary Perry

From: Heather Coltman *Heather Coltman*
Dean and Professor

Date: 14 September 2015

Re: Nomination for Honoray Doctorate Degree—Leon Charney



It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Mr. Leon Charney for an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Charney has outstanding achievements in philanthropy and high distinction in public service.

Mr Charney is a graduate of Yeisheva University, where he demonstrated for the release of Soviet Jews.

Mr Charney is a highly respected philanthropist. He donated \$10 million to New York University's Medical Center for a cardiac wing. Mr. Charney donated a similar amount to the University of Haifa's Leon H. Charny School of Marine Sciences.

Mr Charney holds an honorary title as the Chairman of the University of Haifa in Israel.

Mr. Charney hosts a national weekly television show, *Leon Charney Report*, which addresses local New York politics, foreign affairs, the Middle East, social and cultural affairs.

Mr. Charney is the author of four books. *Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace* subsequently became the basis for the critically acclaimed documentary film of the same name.

Mr. Charney's most outstanding contribution to public service occurred during the 1970s when he served as an unofficial advisor to U.S. President Jimmy Carter during negotiations over the Camp David Accords. Completed in 1978, the treaty between Israel and Egypt served to establish an unprecedented level of security for the Middle Eastern region and the broader international community.

Leon Charney has sustained achievement of lasting significance, and I strongly recommend him for this honor. I have attached a biography, related media documents and a letter of support with this memo. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.



Dorothy F. Schmidt
College of Arts and Letters
Department of Political Science
777 Glades Road
So 44, Room 392
Boca Raton, Florida 33431-0991
tel: 561.297.3210
fax: 561.297.2997

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Heather Coltman
Dean and Professor

From: Jeffrey S. Morton *JSM*
Professor

Date: 14 September 2015

Re: Nomination for Honorary Doctorate Degree—Leon Charney

I consider it a personal honor to nominate Leon H. Charney for an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University. I believe that Mr. Charney is an outstanding candidate for this high honor. While Mr. Charney has established a thoroughly impressive record of philanthropy to universities in the United States and Israel, as well as a wide range of public services, I will focus my attention on his contributions to global peace and security.

As the Director of the Florida Atlantic University Diplomacy Program, I consider the peaceful resolution of international disputes through dialogue the highest ambition of statespeople and global citizens. Mr. Charney's contribution to the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict are nothing short of historic.

Founded in 1948, the State of Israel immediately fell into armed conflict with its Arab neighbors. Over the course of the next twenty-five years, Israel and its neighbors fought no fewer than four significant and highly destructive wars, causing high levels of casualties and civilian displacement.

After the 1973 October War, Israel and Egypt signaled an interest in a diplomatic resolution of their long-standing dispute. Egypt sought the return of the Sinai Desert, which Israel captured in 1967, and Israel sought a treaty of recognition from Egypt. At that point in time, no Arab state had formally recognized Israel.

The parties to the dispute began bilateral negotiations which involved the United States especially after the election of Jimmy Carter. Mr. Charney served an essential role in fostering the intricate dialogue between the three parties by serving as a "backdoor channel" for the American president and a go-between for Israel and Egypt.

The signing of the Camp David Accords in 1978 was the most significant diplomatic accomplishment in the region since the founding of the Israeli state. The return to Egypt of the Sinai Desert mollified Egyptian calls for another war with Israel and Cairo's formal recognition of Israel provided the Jewish state with an unprecedented level of security. In the thirty-seven years since the signing of the Camp David Accords, Israel and Egypt have not fought a war with each other.

Not only did the Camp David Accords stabilize the relationship between Israel and Egypt, the agreement served as a model for other bilateral accords between Israel and its neighbors. The *Treaty of Peace Between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*, which was signed in 1994, similarly resulted in the formal recognition of Israel by one of its Arab neighbors.

For his lasting contributions to international security and his promotion of the peaceful resolution of conflict among nations, Leon H. Charney is a highly deserving candidate for an honorary doctorate degree from Florida Atlantic University.

About Us

Message from the Director

Members of the Division

Letter from the Director

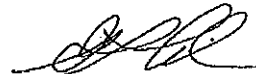


Nearly a century ago, the John Wyckoff Adult Cardiology Clinic opened its doors within Bellevue Hospital, the nation's largest municipal hospital. This clinic, which was the first in the United States dedicated to the care of patients with cardiovascular disease, formed the basis for the Division of Cardiology at NYU Langone Medical Center. Since that auspicious beginning, our clinicians, educators and scientists have continued to make major contributions to Cardiology, with a history of pioneering many groundbreaking "firsts."

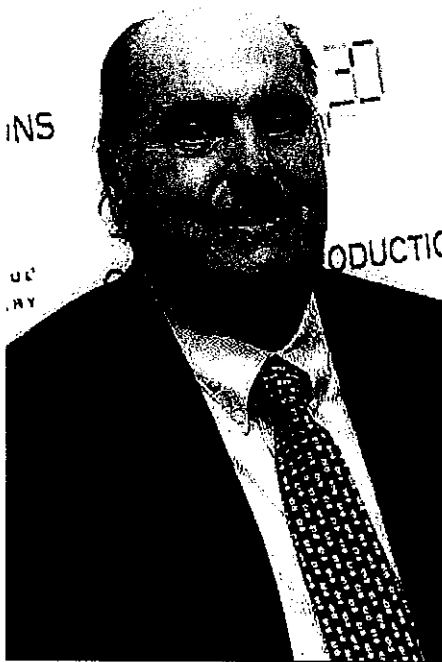
In 2002, our Division was renamed the Leon H. Charney Division of Cardiology, reflecting a remarkable gift from a longtime friend of NYU Langone Medical Center. The generosity of this gift and many others has enabled our program to grow dramatically; today we are recognized as one of the leading Cardiology programs in the country, with expertise in virtually all aspects of cardiovascular prevention, acute care and rehabilitation.

As we look to the future, NYU Langone Medical Center is uniquely poised to improve the outlook for patients with heart disease and diminish the burden of cardiovascular disease. Supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, industry partners as well as critical philanthropic giving, our scientists are exploring key aspects of cardiovascular biology and genetics, including the cellular basis for heart rhythm disorders, mechanisms of atherosclerosis, heart failure and congenital heart disease, stem cells and cardiac regeneration, to name just a few. Our Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center coordinates a broad array of global multi-center research trials, including pivotal studies that have defined the standard of care for patients with heart disease.

I invite you to explore our website and learn more about our faculty, our clinical programs, research activities and educational initiatives.



Glenn I. Fishman, MD, FACC, FAHA, FHR S
William Goldring Professor of Medicine
Professor of Physiology & Neuroscience
Professor of Pharmacology



#1741 Leon Charney

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Real Time Net Worth As of 9/11/15

\$1.01 Billion

Age	74
Source Of Wealth	real estate, Self Made
Residence	New York, NY
Citizenship	United States
Marital Status	Married
Children	2
Education	Bachelor of Arts / Science, Yeshiva University; Doctor of Jurisprudence, Brooklyn Law School

Leon Charney on Forbes Lists

#1741 Billionaires (2015)

#513 in United States

#1565 in 2014

#386 Forbes 400 (2013)



Leon Charney, the son of a sewing supply salesman, inherited just \$34 from his father. He paid his way through Brooklyn Law School singing in synagogues. As an entertainment lawyer he represented stars including Sammy Davis Jr. He built his practice by maximizing tax benefits for oil partnerships. He also became an adviser to Jimmy Carter and helped broker the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel in 1978. On the night Carter lost his re-election in 1980, Charney bought his first building, One Times Square. He now owns three skyscrapers in Times Square with 1.2 million square feet of commercial space.

LEON H. CHARNEY: BIOGRAPHY

Leon Charney is renowned as a lawyer, author, broadcaster, real estate mogul, political advisor and philanthropist – but the self-made billionaire’s rise to international prominence is truly a tale of a man living out the “American Dream.”

With just \$200 in the bank and an entrepreneurial spirit, Charney started his own law firm representing sports and show business personalities. That same spirit, combined with good judgment and creativity, led Charney to success in New York City’s highly competitive world of finance and investment.

Ranked by “Forbes” as among the wealthiest Americans and named by “Bloomberg Business Week” as one of twenty billionaires who started with nothing, Charney is not your ordinary billionaire.

Considered to be among the foremost authorities on Middle East affairs, Charney first entered the realm of politics as a Special Counsel to Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana. In the decades that followed, Charney developed a reputation as an expert in the complex realm of domestic and foreign politics.

“Leon Charney is one of the unsung heroes of the Middle East peace process ... very few people have played as significant a role. Leon Charney understands the complexities of foreign politics,” said President Jimmy Carter.

In response to requests from President Carter and Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Charney served as a backdoor channel to assist Israel and Egypt in putting together a workable document that ultimately led to the 1978 Camp David Peace Accords and thereafter the historic Camp David Peace Agreement.

An accomplished author, Charney has written four books: “Battle of the Two Talmuds,” “The Charney Report: Confronting the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” “The Mystery of the Kaddish” and “Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace” – which formed the basis for the critically acclaimed documentary film of the same name.

For more than 20 years, Charney has moderated “The Leon Charney Report,” an award-winning, nationally televised program featuring one-on-one interviews with some of the best and brightest from around the world.

Charney is the recipient of many awards, including four honorary doctorate degrees. A noted philanthropist, Charney is the major benefactor of the University of Haifa’s Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences and he donated millions to New York University Medical Center for a new cardiac wing of the hospital. Charney is married to Israeli-born Tzili Doron and with her he has twin boys. They divide their time between residences in New York City, Tel Aviv and Boca Raton, Fla.

