

Curriculum Vitae

The Honorable Rolando J. Piernes was appointed Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Thailand in Puerto Rico in 1988. Since then, he has actively worked to promote trade, tourism, and closer ties between Thailand and Puerto Rico, a U. S. territory. For his achievements and dedication towards those goals, beloved King Bhumibol Adulyadej bestowed upon him three Royal decorations: Grand Officer (Knight Commander) of The Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand, in 2004; Commander of The Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, in 1997; and Commander of The Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand, in 1994. He was recognized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand with the Friends of Thailand Award for Best Individual Supporter from the United States in 1998. The award was presented to him by then Prime Minister, His Excellency Chuan Leepkai, in Bangkok.

Consul General Piernes holds a Master in Business Administration and has advanced studies on Consular and Diplomatic Law. He founded RPA Security Equipment in 1976, a firm dedicated to the sales and service of security equipment and retired in 1994. He served in the Puerto Rico State National Guard (PRSNG), reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel before retiring in 1988. He received the Medal for Distinguished Service from the PRSNG in 1996. He has been elected Dean of the Consular Corps of Puerto Rico twice and has served in the board of directors on multiple occasions. From this organization, comprised of the close to forty consulates in the country, he has received several recognitions: The Plaque of Honor for his achievements as dean in 1992 and 1998, and the Order of the Consular Merit, in 1993.

Venezuela acknowledged Consul General Piernes' collaboration with the consulate and the Venezuelan community in Puerto Rico with the Order of Francisco de Miranda, Grand Officer, bestowed by former President Rafael Caldera in 1996. Together with former Governor

of Puerto Rico Luis A. Ferré, he was decorated by the government of Taiwan, Republic of China, with the Friends of Overseas Chinese Medal in 1997. The Governor of Kentucky, Hon. Paul E Patton, granted him the Order of the Kentucky Colonels in 1992, an honor previously received by President Lyndon B. Johnson and General Norman Schwarzkopf. He has been an Academic of Number of the Interamerican Academy of Science and Culture of Puerto Rico since 1997. He served as advisor of the Puerto Rican Chapter of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. He is member of several international charitable organizations, including the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. He is married to Honorary Consul Carmen V. Menéndez.