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Highest honors from the Dutch Crown for Aruban Ed Cheung



Order of a Knight (3rd grade) of the Order of the Netherlands Lion

named as Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion, ranking after the Order of William, which is only awarded for military merit. The announcement of Dr. Cheung earning this highly ranked decoration is a particular source of pride for all Arubans, as, according to the governor's office, he is the first individual from the Caribbean to receive this honor, which was

On Thursday, April 29, Governor Fredis Refunjol, the appointed representative in Aruba of HM Queen Beatrix, distributed decorations to six individuals receiving the honor of being named to the Order of Orange-Nassau. Before performing this annual task, which precedes the official celebration of Queen's Day, he was proud to announce that Aruban born robotics engineer Dr. Edward Cheung had been

first created in 1815 by King William I of the Netherlands.

Since obtaining his Masters and PhD from Yale University with a scholarship funded by Phillips Labs and NASA, Dr. Cheung has been a part of U.S. space program, eventually achieving the position of Principal Engineer of the Hubble Space Telescope Service Project. Residing in the U.S. near Goddard Space Center, where he is stationed, he travels back

to Aruba annually to visit family, and has frequently lectured to islanders about the HST and the latest developments. He has stated frequently his intention to stimulate island youth to obtain the highest levels of education and encourage them to realize that there are no limits to what they can accomplish.

During a crisis with the HST in 2002, which threatened the project, Dr. Cheung and his team devised a fix for a problem with the cooling system which NASA allowed him to name the ASCS/NCS Relay Unit Breaker Assembly, or ARUBA box, to further spark pride and interest among the people of his native island. Though now a long time resident of the U.S., he continues to defer to his homeland whenever possible, and during his visit in August of 2009 gave a lecture regarding the final HST mission the preceding May in

the ballroom of the Occidental Grand Resort to a fascinated audience of nearly 500.

Governor Refunjol stated Dr. Cheung was selected for the singular honor of being decorated as Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion for his dedication to advancing

the education of island youth as well as his great success. He informed Dr. Cheung regarding this the day prior to the award ceremony, and the scientist and his family will return to Aruba in June to receive his medal.

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