

**Pascal Renouard de Vallière:
speech on the occasion of the
Chevalier of the Ordre National du Mérite Award ceremony**

- November 5, 2007 -

Honorable Ministers, Your Highnesses, Excellencies, Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

It is with immense pride and emotion that I accept this great distinction from the Republic of France today. To be honored by the President of the Republic in this way touches me deeply.

The three essential pillars of my atypical career and life are recognized here on this occasion: work, honesty and loyalty.

Any of the successes I have had in my life were achieved thanks to you who are with me here tonight. You have trusted me and supported me, and you have therefore contributed to the outcome of my many projects.

In addition to my family, present here today, you are the ones who shaped me and you have become a part of my very family.

I do not want, nor can, thank everyone who over the years trusted me with their friendship and accompanied me on a portion of my life's path. It would take too much time.

Some have left us too soon and too fast, like my friend, my brother, Prince Sultan. Age has taken others from me, like Paul Guidi, a great servant of the State, who gave me his affection and taught me to channel my energy, at least to some degree

For this reason, I sincerely thank my friend, Deputy Olivier Dassault, who honors me by bestowing this distinction on me.

I also thank Minister Renaud Dutreil, without whom none of this would have taken place.

Also, my sincere gratitude to Minister Brice Hortefeux, who is present here tonight.

Thanks also to Minister Philippe Douste Blazy.

I also want to thank:

The members of the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia,

All my Egyptian Friends,

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed AL NAYAN and my friends in the Emirates,

The Ambassadors who trusted me,

Dr. Hamza Al Kholi and his family,

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Al Rachid,

Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Sulaiman,

Mr. Mohamed Al Fayed,

Serge Dassault and his family, here tonight,

The Kohl family and the Princely Family of Lichtenstein,

The Naguib Sawiris family,

Sheikh Al Meleghi's family,

The Shamma Family,

The Rector and his team,

And, of course, my deepest gratitude to Jean Robert Pitte, our host this evening, as well as the entire Sorbonne team,

Thank you also to Caroline Scheufele of Chopard,

The Ghandour Family,

The Customs Department, who has always trusted me,

My thanks to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, the Interior, Justice and Economy and Finance,

Thank you to my friends from the performing arts, Robert Hossein and Candis Patou, Faudel, Lionel Ritchie and all those who are here this evening,

Thank you to a great lady, Mrs. Patricia Balme,
And all my co-workers.

Finally, I thank my wife, Kyo, and my children, Ayumi, Noura, Loulwa and Sarah who give me all the love I need, and I also thank an exceptional woman, my mother, who I love so, my family and all of you present here this evening.

May God bless you.