



Lifetime Achievement

Awards Dinner Banquet

GRAND BALLROOM

7:00 PM

APRIL 7, 2001

Keynote Speaker

CLAUDIA J. KENNEDY

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Ret.)



Lieutenant General Kennedy was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June 1969 through the Women's Army Corps. Her military education includes completion of the Women's Army Corps Officer Basic Course, Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course, the Junior Officer Cryptologic Career Program at National Security Agency, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. When she retired in January 2000, she had served for 31 years and was the highest-ranking woman in U.S. Army history, serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence. She is the recipient of many awards including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

FANCHON BLAKE

Sergeant, Los Angeles Police Department (Ret.)



Over the last fifty years, Fanchon Blake has been both a witness to and a driving force behind massive changes in the way law enforcement relates to its female employees, most notably in the Los Angeles Police Department. She is the "Blake" behind the lawsuit that resulted in the 1980 Blake consent decree, which effectively forced the Los Angeles Police Department to change its policies towards the recruitment, hiring, and promotion of women police officers. Blake served in the Los Angeles Police Department for 26 years, achieving the rank of sergeant, which at the time was the highest rank ever held by a woman. Since 1973, when she initiated her discrimination lawsuit against the LAPD, ranks of women have increased from 130 to approximately 1800 on the department today. Additionally, all assignments and ranks have been opened to women and selection criteria have been modified to be less discriminatory. Blake is currently a guest lecturer at universities throughout California and Oregon, and is also working on her autobiography.

VERONICA FREEMAN COLEMAN

United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee



Veronica Freeman Coleman was sworn in as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee in 1993, making her the first African-American woman to hold the position of U.S. Attorney in the state of Tennessee. Her legal career is extensive and has been marked by many other firsts. She was a founding partner in the first all-woman law firm in Tennessee, and was also the founding president of the Memphis Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women. As U.S. Attorney, she has initiated many innovative programs, including Operation Ceasefire, which focuses on reducing the numbers of guns in the hands of juveniles, and Child Pornography and the Internet, which brings law enforcement, Internet service providers, and the business community together to fight child pornography. In 2000, she was awarded the Association of Women Attorney's prestigious Marion Griffin-Frances Loring Award.

JOELLEN KUNKEL

Deputy Chief, New York City Police Department



Deputy Chief Kunkel began her career with the New York City Police Department in 1981. She was promoted to Captain in 1993, and as the Commanding Officer of the 104th precinct, she designed the innovative "Bicycle Registration Program" which is now used throughout the City of New York. She is well known for her community outreach and was honored with many civic awards, including one commending her for her work to reduce prostitution. In 1997, Kunkel was designated as the Commanding Officer of the Narcotics Borough Manhattan South, becoming the first woman to command a narcotics borough. She was promoted to Deputy Chief in 1999, and was recently designated the Commanding Officer of Detective Bureau Queens, where she commands 480 personnel and is responsible for all criminal investigations within the Borough of Queens.

LYNDA CASTRO

Captain, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



Captain Castro is a 23-year veteran with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and was promoted to the rank of Captain in August of 2000. She currently serves as the Captain of the West Hollywood branch of the LACSD, where she oversees all of the operations for the unit. Her position in West Hollywood is similar to being a chief of police. She has been frequently honored by her department for her work, and has twice received the LACSD's Exemplary Service Award. Captain Castro is a role model and mentor for the women in the LACSD, has developed innovative programs in all areas where she has been assigned. Recognizing the importance of community involvement, Captain Castro participates as a volunteer in many community organizations and encourages other women in her agency to do the same.

JUDY O'NEAL

Branch Chief, Victim Witness Branch, Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning, State of California (Ret.)



Judy O'Neal began her career in criminal justice in 1966 as a file clerk with the California Department of Justice in Sacramento. She was quickly promoted, and in 1978, joined the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning where she rose to the level of Branch Chief of the Anti-Drug Abuse Enforcement Program. When she retired in December of 2000, she was the Branch Chief of the Victim Witness Branch, where she initiated many innovative reforms, including the establishment of a Victim's Assistance Training Institute. She has received various awards honoring her work in the criminal justice field, including an award from the U.S. Department of Justice for her contributions in evaluating the nation's drug control programs. O'Neal currently serves as a criminal justice consultant for the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance.