

2005

Woman of Great Esteem
Honorees





Hon. D. Neletha Butterfield, J.P., M.P.
Minister of the Environment, Bermuda



Hon. D. Neletha Butterfield J.P., M.P.

Neletha Butterfield is the founder and director of a computer school and an alternative learning centre called C.A.R.E. which stands for Children and Adults Reaching for Education. This energetic community worker is a computer education consultant, teacher, Minister of Government and proud mother of three. Her educational pursuits and value of a sound education is instrumental in her dedicating her life to educating as many Bermudians as possible.

Since C.A.R.E.'s beginning in 1983, she has helped over 5,400 individuals in computer assisted instructions, training and/or tutoring, and also helped more than four hundred adults obtain their high school diplomas. Ms. Butterfield is the co-founder of the Prison Fellowship of Bermuda. In 1985 she held the very first graduation in the prisons and has continued to use her talents assisting countless inmates to receive their high school diplomas, basic education skills and computer training. The Prison Farm, Casemates Prison, Coed Correctional Facility and Westgate Correctional Facility are included among those 'learning' institutions serviced. She is a former Computer Lecturer for the Government Community School, a former lecturer at the Bermuda College in Computers, English and Mathematics and a former instructor of the GED program and Mathematics with the Bermuda Correctional Facilities Education Department.

Her political and community efforts continue to expand her field of influence. Minister Butterfield represents the Bermuda Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in Pembroke West Central Constituency 18. She was first appointed to the Cabinet by Premier Jennifer Smith as Minister without Portfolio on her birthday October 8th, 2002. Minister Butterfield was again appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of the Environment on July 30, 2003 by Premier W. Alexander Scott. She is the President of the Bermuda Business and Professional Women's Club, and is a founding member of S.T.A.R. (Supportive Therapy for Aids Victims and their Relatives). The list continues and her successes have placed her in great demand as a public speaker in Bermuda and in other parts of the world.

As a woman of strength and perseverance whose energy is apparently inexhaustible, Minister D. Neletha 'Honey' Butterfield's experiences have engendered a philosophy based on Roman's 8:28: "All things work together for good, to them that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose". She believes that if you can give an individual a fish they have food for a day, but if you teach an individual how to fish, they have food for a lifetime. Minister Butterfield has received many prestigious awards, among them are, the Bermudian of the Year 1988, The Best of Bermuda Gold Award 1994 and the Sojourner Truth Award 2002.





Jacqueline Ford, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Director of Colposcopy Clinic
Brookdale Medical Hospital



Dr. Jacqueline Ford M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

*B*orn on October 19, 1965 in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies to Angus and Enid Distant, Dr. Jacqueline Ford was the fourth of five children. The family migrated to the United States in 1969 as her visionary parents hoped to realize some aspect of the 'American Dream'. Her father became a Police Administrative Assistant and her mother, a Registered Nurse. Stories of how her mother received great personal satisfaction in her profession inspired Dr. Ford to pursue a medical career. A spiritually grounded family with the 'old-home' values and a quality education remain at the center of her life's successes.

Dr. Ford received a scholarship from the NAACP to attend the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. While there, she was Vice President and President of the Student Blood Services and also founded the Minorities in Medicine Society which provided mentorship to new students interested in the medical field. She was the recipient of the Founders Scholarship and an Outstanding Achievement Award. In her senior year at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine she was the recipient of an International Health Scholarship providing an opportunity to study medicine in Nigeria. Dr. Ford received her Doctorate of Medicine degree in 1991.

Prior to commencement of her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, she married her husband, now of 13 years, Mr. Lloyd Ford and they are now the proud parents of two children, Brandon and Rebecca. Dr. Jacqueline Ford continues to serve at Brookdale Medical Hospital as the Director of the Colposcopy Clinic and remains faithful to her Divine Centering Force as she nurtures her Medical and Biological Families. In addition to her medical commitments, she also coaches the nationally recognized Junior Bible Quiz Team at Bethlehem Church in Queens, New York. In all areas of her Medical and Spiritual Service, Dr. Jacqueline Ford shares her talents as from the heart of God.





Hon. Betsy Gotbaum
New York City Public Advocate



Hon. Betsy Gotbaum

A native New Yorker, Betsy Gotbaum, married a labor leader and is the proud parent of one daughter, four stepchildren and two grandsons. After receiving her B.A. from George Washington University in 1961 she moved to Recife, Brazil, and after several years there, returned to New York and earned a Master's Degree in Education at Columbia University's Teacher's College.

Over the past three decades, NYC Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum has led a distinguished career serving in both the public and private sectors. She began her career in government serving Mayor John Lindsay as District Manager for the Chelsea neighborhood. She continued her work in education with Mayor Abraham Beame managing a training program for security officers. In 1990, Mayor Dinkins appointed her as the first female Commissioner of the New York City Parks and Recreation Department as well as president of the prestigious New York Historical Society. Public Advocate Gotbaum has been known for using nontraditional methods to turn troubled institutions into success stories.

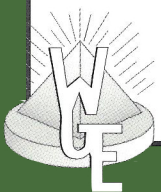
Throughout her career, Public Advocate Gotbaum has shown commitment to community service. She has served on the boards of innumerable not-for-profit organizations, including the Community Service Society, The Valley Recreation and Youth Development Program in Harlem, Goodwill Industries, and the Municipal Arts Society. One of her best-known talents is the ability to raise funds to support the projects and organizations that are meaningful to the Community.

Since her inauguration as New York City's Public Advocate in January, 2002, her first elective office, Betsy Gotbaum has demonstrated that her managerial experience and collaborations with non-profit and business agencies have been invaluable in the reshaping of the office to be the fulcrum of problem solving within the government, as well as between the residents and business owners of New York City. Her leadership has paved the way for municipal reform in education, school construction, prevention of crime against women, and the in fight against hunger. The Hon. Betsey Gotbaum, because of her committed life to community service is the best Public Advocate for New York City.





Hon. Yvonne J. Graham
Deputy Borough President, Brooklyn



Hon. Yvonne J. Graham

Born and raised in Jamaica, West Indies, Yvonne J. Graham moved to New York in 1979. She holds a Bachelor of Health Administration and Community Health degree from St. Joseph's College and a Master of Public Health degree from Hunter College. She also completed the Executive Program in Business Administration from Columbia University School of Business and most recently was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Law degree by her alma mater St. Joseph's College

Before coming into office, Hon. Graham served the community as a Registered Nurse at Brookdale Hospital and has been a pioneer in the area of public health for over twenty years. She founded and was Executive Director of the Caribbean Women's Health Association (CWHHA), which provided comprehensive, culturally-sensitive health care, immigration and social support services to a diverse population. She has served on the Mayor's Committee on Immigration, the New York City HIV Planning Council, and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. Her experience working with immigrants, community activists, academicians, and elected officials allowed her to enter her new office as a powerful advocate for her residential and professional constituents.

In January 2002, The Hon. Yvonne Graham, Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, was appointed by The Hon. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn's Borough President, as his Deputy. In her office as Deputy Borough President she oversees health care policy and all human services for the Borough President. This includes public education policy, social services, and community relations. She is the Borough President's primary representative and key advisor on healthcare and immigration issues. A central focus of Hon. Graham's duty since arriving in office has been her work with Brooklyn's non-profit groups: urging the City and State to streamline the budgetary bureaucracy for community based organizations and to expedite payment under City contracts.

Deputy Borough President Graham's hard work has resulted in the many awards and honors she has received for her achievements in community service. Among them are, The National Association of Black Social Workers' Public Citizen of the Year Award; The Marcus Garvey Medal of Honor; The Frederick Douglass Medal of Honor, which is awarded by the New York State Governor to distinguished African-Americans; and the American Lung Association's Distinguished Award for Leadership, Creativity and Caring in Promotion of Community Health. Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham continues to be an outstanding advocate for Women's Health.





Heather Jones

Fashion Designer, Trinidad and Tobago



Heather Jones

*M*s. Heather Jones is a quintessential artist of this millennium representing the transitional era of self-assertion and individuality. Her designs are motivated to make women feel good about themselves, to empower and inspire. The endless limitation of her work is like a powerful river with countless branches, which develops into outrageously wonderful waterfalls. Her work brings a divine blessing to each individual that comes into contact with her designs. She proudly states that her inspiration comes from the rhythm, movement and passion of the islands. Hand-painted silk chiffons, in varied weights, in the vibrant colors of the tropics, filled with the energy and abundance of the Caribbean life, her collection is designed to reveal the romantic nature and sensuality of today's woman.

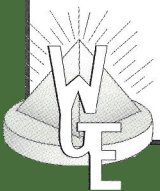
Ms. Jones has now become an icon in the fashion industry. She has taken fashion from an idea into the global marketplace – endorsing her evolution with her recent claim to glory when she won the International Pret, a Porter Style Award, at Fashion Week of the Americas 2002, which was hosted in South Beach Miami. Heather Jones was received by the U.S. market with open arms and the assurance of a bright future. Buyers from more than 30 U.S. based specialty and department stores were thrilled to find a designer with such unique talent and inspiration. Orders were placed and delivered to Florida, California, Hawaii, Michigan, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Ms. Jones designs were also featured in the fall collection issue 2002 for Bridal Noir, which is an international magazine based out of London.

The Elegant Hotels Company, in Barbados, have negotiated with Heather Jones for her to provide a complete line of clothing, cosmetics and amenities, which will evolve into a strong five-year business partnership/venture as she is also negotiating a licensing deal. Subsequently, a new company comes into play; The House of Heather Jones, which will give rise to a brand name in perfumes, cosmetics and more, all carrying the Heather Jones label. This agreement also spreads its wings into the European market in London, South of France and Italy. For Heather Jones, inner vibrations are outwardly expressed in garments and elements that give breath to the body, mind, and soul.






Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee
Member, U.S. House of Representatives



Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee

ongresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee received her undergraduate degree from Yale University, graduating with honors in Political Science. She went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law. She is married to Dr. Elwyn C. Lee, Vice Chancellor and Special Assistant the Chancellor of the University of Houston System. She is the mother of Erica Shelwyn, and Jason Cornelius Bennett Lee.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee served two terms as one of the first African American women At-Large members of the Houston City Council where she also chaired the first Human Relations Committee. Prior to her Council Service, she was an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Houston. While a member of the City Council, Congresswoman Jackson Lee was instrumental in the passage of legislation dealing with human rights. She also concentrated on issues such as homelessness, gun safety and responsibility. She is also involved in major efforts related to aviation, and urban redevelopment and revitalization. Her commitment to community concerns caused Congresswoman Jackson Lee to lend her efforts to numerous civic and professional organizations. An active member of the State Bar of Texas, she is only one of three African-American women to have served as Director of the State Bar of Texas. From 1987 to 1988, she chaired the Justice Court Subcommittee of the Texas Bar.

Hailed by EBONY as one of the 100 Most Fascinating Black Women of the Century, and by Congressional Quarterly, as one of the 50 most effective members in Congress, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1994 to represent the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas. In her most recent election to the 108th Congress, she captured over 77% of the votes. Her membership in the 108th Congress marks her fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the First Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, distinguishing herself as a staunch defender of the Constitution, civil rights, juvenile justice, protection of America's health needs, and economic empowerment for low and middle income America.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee is a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary where she is a member of the Subcommittee on Crime and was selected as the first African-American woman to serve as the Ranking Democratic on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims. Raising a voice for Constitutional protocol, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, Congresswoman Jackson Lee played a pivotal role during the impeachment hearings of President Clinton, joining three other Democrats to draft a resolution that would have avoided the necessity of an impeachment vote. Guided by a strong sense of Justice, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee continues to serve because of her commitment, love and passion for the community.



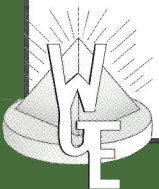


Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P.

Deputy Prime Minister

Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados

Award of Excellence



Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P.

The Honorable Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P., received her law degree from the London School of Economics specializing in advocacy and is a Barrister of the Bar in England and Wales. Miss Mottley was one of two Opposition Senators in the Senate of Barbados between 1991 and 1994 while serving as Shadow Minister of Culture and Community Development and on a number of Joint Select Committees in various areas, such as Praedial Larceny and Domestic Violence. Elected to the Barbados Parliament in September 1994 as part of Prime Minister Owen Arthur's new Barbados Labour Party Government, she is now Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados.

One of the youngest persons ever to be assigned to a ministerial portfolio, Deputy Prime Minister Mottley was appointed to the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture. While there she co-authored a well-known White Paper that draws the link between education and economic achievement. In 1996 and again in 1997 she served as Chair of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Education (Caribbean Community). A member of the National Security Council of Barbados and the Barbados Defence Board, in 1996, she became General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party, a position which she held up until October 2004.

In August 2001, Deputy Prime Minister Mottley was appointed Attorney-General (the first female to hold this position), Minister of Home Affairs and the leader of Government's Business in the House of Assembly. In January 2002, she became a member of the Local Privy Council. She was also admitted to the Inner Bar of Barbados, becoming the youngest ever Queen's Counsel in Barbados. Notably, in September, 2001 she assumed the Chair of the Regional Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

In May 2003, Hon. Mia Mottley was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados. In addition, she now serves as the Chair of the Social Council of Barbados and the Deputy Chair of Barbados' Economic Council. As Deputy Prime Minister, she continues to assist in the progressive development of her beloved Barbados, she embraces added responsibilities to Chair of number of key Cabinet sub-committees, notably Telecommunications Reform and the Administrative and Legislative Oversight Initiatives, preparing Barbados for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Deputy Prime Minister Mia Mottley is one the most powerful and influential women in Caribbean Politics today.





Blossom O'Meally-Nelson, Ph.D.
Postmaster General of Jamaica



Blossom O'Meally-Nelson, Ph.D.

Dr. Blossom O'Meally-Nelson is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and holds a Doctorate in Social and General Psychology. Currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Postal Corporation of Jamaica and the Postmaster General for Jamaica, this mother of three is also the Pro-Chancellor and the Chairwoman of the Council for the University of Technology, Jamaica.

Dr. O'Meally-Nelson has been involved professionally in a number of areas as an educator, management consultant and environmentalist. She has paved a way for women through her significant achievements and has always envisioned the best for herself and others. She is a past Chairwoman for the Board of Studies for Education at the University of the West Indies. She sat on the Council for the World Assembly for Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs, and made several presentations in the international forum. For seven years Dr. Omeally-Nelson headed the National Development Foundation of Jamaica which provides loans and technical assistance to small and micro-enterprises. The Foundation, under her leadership showed significant growth and received international attention. She established and managed for five years the Work Force Development Consortium, a labor market service organization. Dr. O'Meally-Nelson was a founding Director of the Environment Foundation of Jamaica, and, for eleven years she chaired the Jamaica Conservation Development Trust and, was also Chairwoman of the Duhaney Park Primary School for eleven years. Another significant achievement was her involvement in the transitional process that saw the College of Arts, Science and Technology transformed into the University of Technology, Jamaica.

A dynamic woman who has made service her guiding principle, Dr. O'Meally-Nelson, a well-known public speaker, has hosted the television programme 'Businessline' and is also the author of the book *Hazards of Entrepreneurship*. As she has paved the way for women, she has set an example for her two sons who have achieved international acclaim as pioneers of the Jamaica Bobsleigh team. A leading woman and a leader of women, Dr. Blossom O'Meally-Nelson continually nurtures excellence.






Esline Andrea Smith
Banking and Commerce



Esline Andrea Smith

sline Andrea Smith was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1960 to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walker. When Mrs. Smith was seven, her mother, Myrtle, migrated to the United States to seek a better future for both herself and her daughter. She was then raised by her grandmother, Mrs. Retinella Reynolds, and her godmother, Mrs. Lena Bygrave who both played major roles in her life by providing strength and spiritual guidance. While living in Jamaica, she attended St. Albans Elementary School and Merl Grove High School in Jamaica.

In 1974, Mrs. Smith migrated to the United States where she was able to join her mother and stepfather, Wilmoth Dunbar. She completed her High School Education at Prospect Heights High School where she was a member of the Arista Honor Society. After graduating, she attended Pace University and received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1984. In 1983 she married Laurie Smith and from this union, she gave birth to two sons, Khalfani and Khalil; the former, a recipient of the "Explorer of the Year Award" from the NYC Police Dept. Exploration Program. Khalil at the age of 10, received scholarships to Pratt University's Art School and The Brooklyn Museum's School of Art. Both Khalfani and Khalil are past students of MACADEMY Preparatory School where Mrs. Smith has served as Parent Association President.

Mrs. Smith, in her earlier years in banking was employed at Chase Manhattan Bank for four years as a Customer Service Representative. After her brief tenure there she pursued her current position at Barclays Bank where she has served for the past nineteen years in the Funds Transfer Operations Area, transferring 500 million dollars daily. She received a "Best Practice Award" in 2001 to signify her hard work and dedication. The Woman of Great Esteem Award reflect the purposefulness and satisfaction that Mrs. Smith received during her tenure as the first Parent Association President of MACADEMY and her untiring assistance in the preparation of her sons for their greatness. Mrs. Esline Smith is an excellent mother whose participation in her children's education has resulted in their ongoing accomplishments and success.






Hon. Maxine Waters
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
100th Woman



Hon. Maxine Waters

 Congresswoman Maxine Waters was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the fifth of thirteen children reared by a single mother. She attended California State University at Los Angeles, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and began her career in public service as a teacher and a volunteer coordinator in the Head Start program. She is married to Sidney Williams, the former U.S. Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and is the mother of two adult children, Edward and Karen, and the grandmother of two.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics today. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and out-spoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. Elected in November 2002 to her seventh term in the House of Representatives with an overwhelming 77.6 percent of the votes in the 35th District of California, Congresswoman Waters represents a large part of South Central Los Angeles, the Westchester community and the diverse cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale.

Prior to her election to the House of Representatives in 1990, Congresswoman Waters had already attracted national attention for her no-nonsense, no-holds-barred style of politics. She was elected to the California State Assembly and rose to the powerful position of Democratic Caucus Chair. She was responsible for some of the boldest legislation California has ever seen: the largest divestment of state pension funds from South Africa; landmark affirmative action legislation; the nation's first statewide Child Abuse Prevention Training Program; the prohibition of police strip searches for nonviolent misdemeanors; and the introduction of the nation's first Plant Closure Law.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters has been on the cutting edge of public service for 25 years. As an advocate for human rights, Congresswoman Waters was a leader in the movement to end Apartheid. She founded the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement and continues to be an advisor to TransAfrica. In 1994, she was on the official U.S. delegation to Nelson Mandela's inauguration as President of a free South Africa.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters used her skills to shape public policy and deliver the goods: \$10 billion in Section 108 loan guarantees to cities for economic and infrastructure development, housing and small business expansion; \$50 million appropriation for the "Youth Fair Chance" program which established an intensive job and life skills training program for unskilled, unemployed youth. She is lauded by African American entrepreneurs for her work to expand contracting and procurement opportunities and to strengthen businesses.

Congresswoman Waters is highly visible in Democratic Party politics and has served on the Democratic National Committee since 1980. She was a key leader in five Presidential Campaigns. One of the many testaments to Congresswoman Waters work is the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center, a multimillion dollar campus providing education and employment opportunities to residents of the Watts area. She continues to be a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and the ranking member of its Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. Congresswoman Maxine Waters continues to be a strong political voice in the National and International Communities.

