

The 3rd Annual ATLANTA CARIBBEAN AWARDS

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Special Recipient Awards

Cathy Harris

Cathy is a courageous advocate for justice. As a Community Grassroot Organizer and Activist. Cathy is a dedicated warrior who fights against racial profiling, discrimination and inequality.

Cathy gained extensive experience as a 25-year federal career professional, including 15 years in U.S. Custom Service. She bravely reported the denigration inflicted against African-American and Hispanic travelers, especially African-American women, to the American Public and Congress. She vividly described the violations carried out by corrupt Customs officials such as the demoralizing pat-downs, intrusive strip-searches, cavity-searches, x-ray examinations, monitored defecation and targeted intimidation by drug sniffing dogs.

Governmental reports and investigations by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Senate and the media validated Cathy's allegations. As a result of her bravery, new legislation and enhanced reform were introduced to protect the American public such as the "Civil Rights for International Travelers Act- H.R. 1996" and the "Reasonable Search and Standards Act- S. 799". In March 2000, the Georgia House of Representatives honored Cathy for her whistleblowing activities.

As Founder and Executive Director of Customs Employees Against Discrimination (CEADA), Cathy educates the public about violations of civil and human rights, discriminatory practices and racial profiling perpetuated by U.S. Customs Service and other federal agencies.

With the release of her first book "FLYING WHILE BLACK": A WHISTLEBLOWER'S STORY, in February 2001, Cathy has several other non-fiction books under development.