



2017 Trailblazer Award

Congresswoman Maxine Waters

Representing California's 43rd Congressional District for over 23 years, Congresswoman Maxine Waters is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics today. She serves as the Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, which is responsible for oversight of our nation's housing market, the financial regulatory agencies, banks and financial intuitions, and Wall Street. She is the first woman and the first African American of either party to serve as the top Democrat on this powerful committee.

Congresswoman Waters was instrumental in implementing the landmark Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which led to the establishment of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the creation of Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion at each of the Federal regulatory agencies. Waters has been at the forefront of the fight to keep families in their homes, advocating for strong modification programs and oversight of mortgage servicers. In 2013, HousingWire, a leading news outlet covering the U.S. housing economy, named her a "Woman of Influence" for her work on the Committee.

Throughout her 37 years of public service, Congresswoman Waters has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. She is an integral member of Congressional Democratic Leadership, serving as a member of the Steering & Policy Committee. Congresswoman Waters is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, as well as a member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The 43rd Congressional District of California includes a large part of South Central Los Angeles and the diverse cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita and Torrance.



2017 Lifetime Achievement Award *Flaxie R. Fletcher, M.D.*

Dr. Flaxie Fletcher is a physician, a surgeon, a mother, grandmother, sister, daughter and friend and a passionate advocate for her patients. Over the 40 year span of her career, she empowered her patients to participate in their care through what she calls her “ministry of wellness”.

A native of Washington, D.C., she attended Stoneleigh Prospect Hill School in Greenfield, Massachusetts and went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her undergraduate education at Howard University and her medical school training at Howard University College of Medicine.

In 1975, Dr. Fletcher moved to Los Angeles, California to complete her training in Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at Martin Luther King General Hospital. She practiced Emergency Medicine from 1975 thru 1980 during which time she joined a practice with Dr. Wilber Suesberry serving the Compton and Lynwood communities. She joined the Department of Surgery at Dominguez Medical Center in 1979 and served until its close. While there, she served as Physician Liaison for Utilization Review, as well as Chief of Surgery for several terms.

She also joined the Department of Surgery at St. Francis Medical Center in 1979, serving as Chief of Surgery for several terms. In the late 1980’s, Dr. Fletcher began her solo practice in Otolaryngology. She operated a clinical and surgical practice until 2010 and continued to serve St. Francis in multiple capacities – including consulting as Medical Director for Patient Safety for over 8 years. In 2008 St. Francis Medical Center recognized her achievements with The Vincentian Spirit Award.

Dr. Fletcher now consults in Patient Safety and Quality Management. She is accredited by numerous organizations including the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, and is certified in Regulatory Compliance by CIHQ and LEAN certified through UCLA. Dr. Fletcher has served on the Boards of The Lynwood Chamber of Commerce, The Aids Project, Stoneleigh Burnham School and most recently at Park Century School. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Among her greatest blessings, Dr. Fletcher counts her loyal patients – many of whom are families spanning 4 generations – and her peers who have entrusted their patients to her knowledge and care. Dr. Fletcher is especially grateful to her full-time office team, Claudia Vergara and Josafina Casas, who have been indispensable in her ministry of wellness.

The joys of Dr. Fletcher’s heart are her 2 daughters and 4 grand-miracles, Hailey, Noah, Skyler and Hunter.

Dr. Fletcher is forever grateful to God for His love, order, direction, and purpose for her life.



2017 Lifetime Achievement Award *Solomon T. Little Jr., M.D.*

Dr. Little is a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. After completing high school, he attended St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1962. His Internship was completed at Homer G. Phillips Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri. After completion of his Internship, he was drafted into the US Air Force and served 2 years as a Flight Surgeon with the rank of Captain. He completed a 4-year Surgery Residency at the University of California Irvine Medical Center and affiliated hospitals. He was inducted into the American College of Surgeons in 1975.

Over a span of 47 years, Dr. Solomon T. Little, Jr. has been a General and Trauma Surgeon exhibiting a dedication and passion for his chosen field of work. The community and fellow colleagues have recognized his contributions that have made an impact on others. He began his private practice in Compton, CA and Lynwood, CA and was on staff at St. Francis Medical Center and Dominquez Valley Hospital in 1969. After retirement, he was employed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Medical Department for 11 years.

Dr. Little's distinguished awards and community services include: LA Medical Clinic at the Union Rescue Mission; Career Day Speaker (1982) South LA Chapter, Jack and Jill of America; Attending Surgeon, Martin Luther King General Hospital, LA, 1977-1978; Third recipient of The Vincentian Spirit Award, St. Francis Medical Center, 1994; City of Lynwood Doctor's Appreciation Day Award - 1997 for his Achievements, Leadership, and Outstanding Humanitarian Service; Certificate of Appreciation from California U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, 1997; Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from CA Representative, Juanita McDonald, 1997; Chief of Staff, St. Francis Medical Center, 1995 – 1996; Chairman, Department of Surgery, St. Francis Medical Center - 1987 and 1991.

Dr. Little and Annette have been married for 54 years. They have 4 children and 2 grandchildren: Valerie S. Little, J.D., M.S.W., Melanie L. Adams, M.D., M.P.H. (Curtis, Jr, M.D.), Solomon T. Little, III, M.B.A. MRED, Michael S. Little, J.D. (Colony). Grandchildren: Curtis N. Adams, III and Emily J. Adams.

Dr. Little is a member of Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, San Pedro, CA and holds membership in The Knights of Columbus, Council 1740. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. His hobbies include studying cultural and historical literature, playing golf and chess.