

2001 Honorees - Strong Men & Women

- **Top Row from left:** Adolphus C. Hailstork, Evelyn J. Fields, Carl M. Brashear
- **Middle Row from left:** Cathy L. Hughes, Guion S. Bluford Jr., Jean W. Cunningham
- **Bottom Row from left:** Henry E. Frye, Jean L. Harris, Curtis W. Harris



Dominion Strong Men & Women
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP SERIES

Guion S. Bluford, Jr. - 2001 Honoree

"You are paving the way for many others and making it plain that we are in an era of brotherhood here in our land." On the second day of the 1983 space shuttle Challenger mission, then U.S. President Ronald Reagan spoke these stirring words to Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr., the first African American to fly in space. With this first, Dr. Bluford broke the color barrier in space exploration.



He was taught by his parents to reach for the stars, literally. His mother was a teacher and his father an inventor and mechanical engineer. One of three sons, Dr. Bluford's interest in space and aviation began as a child, when he constructed model airplanes.

During the Vietnam War, he flew 144 combat missions. His heroism was followed by stints as an instructor pilot and staff development engineer. Dr. Bluford is currently vice president of the Major Program Sector of the Federal Data Corporation, an information technology and engineering services company headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania native received a B.S. in aerospace engineering from Penn State University, an M.S. and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of Houston.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Board of Trustees of The Aerospace Corporation, Dr. Bluford continues to share his expertise with space and aviation professionals.

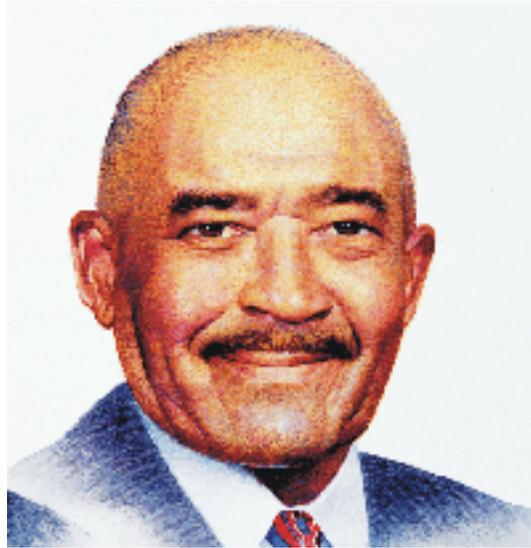
His work and accomplishments received appropriate recognition when Dr. Bluford was awarded Superior Service and three Meritorious Service Medals from the Department of Defense; Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service, Commendation and 10 Air Medals from the Air Force; Distinguished Service, Exceptional Service and four Space Flight Medals from NASA; the State of Pennsylvania's Distinguished Service Medal; and 13 honorary doctorate degrees. He was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 1997.

Dr. Bluford shares with today's youth the same advice he gave to the 1999 graduating class of Central State University in Dayton, Ohio: "Don't be afraid to learn and don't be afraid to explore. Take time to invest in yourselves."

Carl M. Brashear - 2001 Honoree

If Retired Navy Master Diver Carl Brashear's life story reads like the plot of an action-packed movie, that's because it is. Mr. Brashear was the Navy's first African-American master diver and the first black deep-sea diver. He also was the subject of an inspirational, real-life Twentieth Century Fox movie, "Men of Honor," starring Cuba Gooding, Jr.

Born in a rural section of Kentucky to sharecroppers and the sixth of nine children, Mr. Brashear attended a one-room schoolhouse to only the eighth grade. He later earned a general equivalency diploma (GED) and continued his studies at a community college.



Mr. Brashear joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 in 1948. In 1953, after several attempts from superiors to dissuade him from pursuing his dream of becoming a navy diver, Brashear was assigned to diving school. As the only African American in his class, Mr. Brashear's journey was challenging and fulfilling but filled with racial tension. Yet, he still pressed on. He demonstrated his unending bravery and determination in 1966 after an injury sustained during a salvage operation resulted in the amputation of his leg. During the salvage operation, Mr. Brashear sacrificed his own health and well being to save the lives of several other sailors by pushing them out of the way of a heavy metal pipe.

In 1970, four years after the fateful accident, Mr. Brashear beat significant odds and received the title of Navy master diver. With yet another milestone achievement, he became the first person in naval history to be restored to full active duty as an amputee.

His phenomenal naval career ended with his 1979 retirement. He continued his quest for success through civil service employment, beginning as an engineering specialist in 1982 and ending as an environmentalist specialist in 1993 when he retired. His rapid advancement and accomplishments earned him one of the nation's highest peacetime awards, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, and the second highest civil service award, the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

The Virginia Beach, Virginia resident shares with America's youth the key to his success: "Love yourself, develop a positive attitude, set a goal and work toward it with all your might."

Jean W. Cunningham - 2001 Honoree

When Jean Cunningham returned to Virginia more than 20 years ago after living in other parts of the country, she took the legal and political communities by storm. As a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1986 until she retired in 1997, Ms. Cunningham was a passionate and effective advocate for the needs of Virginia families.

As an elected official, the Hampton, Virginia native helped to create laws and policies to help guide Virginia into a century of peace and prosperity. Ms. Cunningham is perhaps best known for her advocacy of gun control legislation and public education. In addition, over the years, she served as a chief patron on adoption, domestic violence and patient privacy legislation.



A graduate of Virginia State University (VSU) and Howard University School of Law, Ms. Cunningham has been a trailblazer and precedent-setting leader of great accomplishment, basing her life's work in public service. She is currently the human resources director for the Construction/Distribution Global Business Unit of Reynolds Metals in Richmond.

Ms. Cunningham has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including VSU's Board of Visitors and the Virginia State Social Services Board, to which she was appointed by former Virginia Governor Chuck Robb. Currently, she serves on the board of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and is a member of the Links and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., public-service organizations.

Ms. Cunningham's accomplishments are especially significant, because with the loss of her husband in 1984, she overcame personal tragedy to singlehandedly raise three children and make her mark in the Virginia legislature and in life.

In honor of her strong leadership and advocacy, Ms. Cunningham has received several awards, including the YWCA Outstanding Woman of the Year Award in Law, the 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and the Advocate of the Year Award from the Virginians Against Handgun Violence.

Ms. Cunningham has helped change the course of Virginia history and, in doing so, has also set a new standard for African-American women throughout the state of Virginia. She urges today's youth to set a new standard and make major contributions to their communities.

Evelyn J. Fields - 2001 Honoree

Evelyn Fields grew up knowing she would go to college one day, because her parents told her so from her earliest childhood. Little did her parents know, however, that their belief in her and their strong commitment to education would underlie her future of continual "firsts." Her uniform speaks volumes - distinction, authority and respect. Her title speaks of the strides made by thousands of African-American military personnel. Her accomplishments speak for themselves.

Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields is the first African American and first woman to become director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Officers Corps, the nation's seventh uniformed service. Nominated by U.S. President Bill Clinton, she was confirmed for the position by the U.S. Senate and officially assumed her command in July 1999.



The NOAA Commissioned Officers Corps is a small, elite corps of officers, all with college degrees in science, engineering or mathematics, who serve within the many environmental research programs of NOAA.

Armed with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Adm. Fields graduated from Norfolk State College (now Norfolk State University) in 1971. She began her career with NOAA as a civilian cartographer at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Virginia in 1972. One year later, when NOAA began recruiting women into its commissioned service, she became the first African-American woman to join the Corps.

Now the most senior woman in the Corps, Adm. Fields not only serves as Corps director but as director of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, another first. This office operates and manages the agency's fleet of environmental research ships and aircraft. During her career, the Norfolk, Virginia native has received a variety of commendations and awards, most recently, the 1999 Ralph M. Metcalfe Health, Education and Science Award from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

To the next generation of trailblazers, the Admiral offers these words of encouragement: "The secret to success is in yourself, your own drive and determination and ability to make your own opportunities. You will also need all the courage you can muster, the type of courage that allows you to take chances and make mistakes, but most of all, to believe in yourself."

Henry E. Frye - 2001 Honoree

In 1999, newspaper headlines across the state of North Carolina screamed, "Gov. Hunt Appoints Henry Frye N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice." The pride swelled among many North Carolinians when they realized the significance of the historical appointment: Henry E. Frye is the first African American to serve as chief justice in the state's history.

Born in Ellerbe, Richmond County (North Carolina) to Walter and Pearl Frye, Justice Frye has worked for fairness throughout his life. In 1968, he became the first African American elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives this century. He served in the North Carolina State House until 1980 when he was elected to the N.C. Senate, serving until 1982.

In 1983, Justice Frye was appointed to the North Carolina Supreme Court. This appointment accomplished another first, making him the first African American to serve on the North Carolina Supreme Court. He successfully ran for eight-year terms on the Supreme Court in 1984 and 1992.

Justice Frye's powerful and articulate leadership has extended to the military and banking industry. In the 1950s, Justice Frye served two years in the U.S. Air Force and continued active duty in the Air Force Reserves, where he reached the rank of Captain. Also, he founded Greensboro National Bank (now Mutual Community Savings Bank) and served as its president from 1971 until 1981.

The pioneer received a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A & T State University and a law degree from the University of North Carolina (UNC)-Chapel Hill School of Law, where he graduated with honors.

Justice Frye's numerous awards and honors affirm his leadership. He has been honored with the Charles D. McIver Medal from UNC-Greensboro for outstanding achievement in education, the first North Carolina A&T State University Alumni Excellence Award and the UNC-Chapel Hill Distinguished Alumnus Award.

As a member of the National Black Child Development Institute, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, Frye's community involvement is another testament to his commitment to North Carolinians.

Justice Frye imparts words of wisdom upon today's youth: "Develop good habits - they will serve you well throughout life."



Adolphus C. Hailstork - 2001 Honoree

Dr. Adolphus Hailstork's heavenly creations are truly music to our ears. As a world-renowned composer and well-respected college professor, the Rochester, New York native has gained a reputation as one of the greatest composers in the nation.

Dr. Hailstork's love of music began as a child, when he studied the art. After 40 years as an active composer, the musical genius has delighted audiences around the country.

Hailstork has captured the attention of the masses by writing numerous works for chorus, solo voice, chamber ensembles, band and orchestra. Three of Dr. Hailstork's largest and most frequently performed choral works are *Songs of Isaiah* (written for the Boys Choir of Harlem), the oratorio *Done Made My Vow* and the cantata *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*. These and other award-winning works have been performed by major orchestras, including those in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York.



Done Made My Vow was performed by the Long Island Philharmonic several years ago. Combining classical music, gospel, spiritual themes and the spoken word, the work evoked great emotion from the music director of the orchestra, who called it "a magnificent, moving piece." A member of the accompanying chorus said she lent her voice to the performance, because she "wanted to sing a work by an African-American composer still living."

Dr. Hailstork received a bachelor's degree in music from Howard University; bachelor's and master's degrees in composition from the Manhattan School of Music in New York; and a doctorate in composition from Michigan State University.

As a professor of music and composer-in-residence at Norfolk State University in Virginia for more than 20 years, Dr. Hailstork made the art of music accessible to generations of students. The Virginia Beach resident recently joined the faculty of Old Dominion University in Norfolk as a professor of music.

Future musicians and composers could learn from Dr. Hailstork's philosophy: "Have a dream, learn your craft, work hard. Step outside of the boxes of tradition and expectation."

Curtis W. Harris - 2001 Honoree

In 1960, he was arrested and sentenced to 60 days in jail for sitting in at a segregated drugstore in Hopewell, Virginia. In 1987, he led a march against discrimination in Colonial Heights, Virginia. In 1996, he filed a discrimination complaint against a Fort Lee, Virginia military unit.

Rev. Curtis Harris has been heralded as a religious, social, civic and political leader for more than 40 years. As Hopewell, Virginia's first African-American mayor, as past president of the Virginia State Unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and as pastor of Union Baptist Church in Hopewell, Rev. Harris has spent a lifetime working for the rights of others.



Rev. Harris was born in Surry County, Virginia and was raised in the inner city of Hopewell and educated in its public schools. He graduated from Carter G. Woodson High School and continued his education at Virginia Union University.

From his sit-ins to his marches with the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Harris' early leadership was crucial to the Civil Rights Movement. He has dedicated his life to activism and has waged tireless campaigns as a past president of the Hopewell chapter of the NAACP and the Virginia State Unit of the SCLC. Currently, he is a member of the SCLC National Board of Directors and the U.S. Committee on Civil Rights.

Countless organizations have honored the man who has risked his life to champion the rights of African Americans. Rev. Harris has earned the Support of Children Award from the City of Hopewell School Board, the Unmatched Determination Award from the national board of the SCLC, the Lifetime Service to Fellowmen Award from the Surry County Citizens Forum and the Real Dream Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Life Institute.

Because of the struggle for survival that young people are confronted with today, Rev. Harris shares these words to guide them: "As the little lad freely gave of his lunch, two fishes and five barley loaves, which was magnified by Christ and became the supper for thousands, so does every young person have something that Christ can use to supply the needs of others."

Jean L. Harris, M.D. - 2001 Honoree

Dr. Jean Harris' journey to excellence began in Richmond, Virginia, where she was born and raised. In 1951, the journey took her to the Medical College of Virginia (MCV), where she was admitted as the first African American and one of six women in a class of more than 100 students. Almost 50 years later, the journey has taken the visionary to Eden Prairie, Minnesota, where she serves as mayor.

Dr. Harris graduated with honors from Virginia Union University, where she received a B.S. in chemistry. Her admission into MCV came at a time when women were not admitted into medical schools, and no African Americans had ever been admitted into an institution of higher education in Virginia.

Dr. Harris' distinguished career has spanned the academic, medical, corporate and public-service arenas. She has taught at several universities and has headed Medicare and Medicaid programs, foundations, medical school programs and private practices.

In 1978, she was appointed Secretary of Human Resources in the Commonwealth of Virginia — the first woman and the first African American to hold such a post. In 1982, she became vice president of a Minnesota corporation, becoming one of the first female vice presidents of a Fortune 500 company. In 1992, she accepted her most recent appointment as the first senior associate director and director of medical affairs at the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics.

The mayor has been honored by Dollars and Sense magazine as one of the Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women and featured in Who's Who in America and Who's Who Among American Women.

In addition to her board memberships and civic activities in Minnesota, Dr. Harris continues to touch lives in Virginia. At Virginia Union University, she has established the J.L. Harris Scholarship for minority students in the sciences of math, physics, biology and chemistry. A scholarship at MCV was created for minority students interested in medicine.

Dr. Harris confers these wise words to America's youth: "Retain some measure of control over your life by doing everything possible to become a player rather than a bystander. Take the calculated risk! Don't let your life just happen. Live it!"



Cathy L. Hughes - 2001 Honoree

Radio listeners around the country can thank Cathy Hughes for creating the "Quiet Storm," the most listened to nighttime radio format in the country and currently heard in more than 50 markets across the nation.

Like this popular format, Ms. Hughes has taken the radio industry by storm. She is the founder and chairperson of Radio One, Inc., the largest African-American owned and operated broadcast company in the United States.

The Radio One properties consist of 20 FM stations and seven AM stations in nine of the top 20 African-American radio markets, including Richmond. With its stations reaching over two million black listeners on a daily basis, Radio One is often recognized as the "voice of black America."



The Omaha, Nebraska, native began her radio career in 1973 as general sales manager at Howard University's station, where she created the "Quiet Storm" format. Seven years later, Ms. Hughes purchased her first radio station.

Active community involvement is a trademark of Radio One and Ms. Hughes herself. Her major community service projects include her sponsorship of the Piney Woods Summer Camp, which allows inner city youth to spend the summer at a highly-successful African-American boarding school in Mississippi. In addition, she sponsors "Dream Feast," where celebrity servers feed and fellowship with the homeless.

Ms. Hughes has been recognized by the Capitol Press Club, the Washington, D.C. Chamber of Commerce, and *Impact* and *Billboard* magazines. *Essence* magazine recognized her as one of 100 who have "changed the world," and she has been profiled in *Emerge*, *Broadcast & Cable* and *Forbes* magazines.

In May 1999, Ms. Hughes and her son, Alfred Liggins, took Radio One public and joined the ranks of only a few black-owned companies on the stock market. This venture made Ms. Hughes the first African-American woman with a company on the stock exchange and boosted Radio One's reported value to more than \$1 billion.

The radio extraordinaire shares her heart-felt advice: "Always put God first in all things, and then you can embrace the God Spirit that is in all of us. With God as your partner, there are no limits on what you can achieve and receive."