

LAWTON'S HEART HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2012



Each year, nominations for the Lawton's Heart Humanitarian Award have featured outstanding community members who have put others before themselves in lifetimes of work they have accomplished and made a significant contribution to making Florida a better place to live.

The award, named for Governor Lawton Chiles, because of his tremendous effort in recognizing the nonprofit sector as a vital force, is to be presented during FANO's Annual Conference.

FANO has been presenting awards since 1993, following 1992's Hurricane Andrew, to acknowledge the help given by the nonprofit sector in the aftermath of the disaster. In 1999, the award was changed and renamed the Lawton's Heart Humanitarian Award. The first recipient, posthumously presented, was Governor Lawton Chiles and accepted by his wife, Mrs. Rhea Chiles.

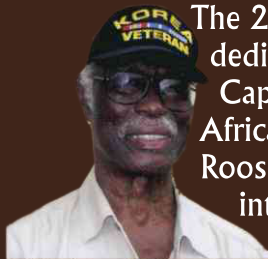
In recent years, the award has been presented to:



Former Award Winners
Dr. Rachel Fornes & Nestor Torres

Dr. Barth Green, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, in recognition for his global influence to cure paralysis and his selfless call to Haiti, where he set up a hospital within 18 hours of the devastating earthquake in 2010.

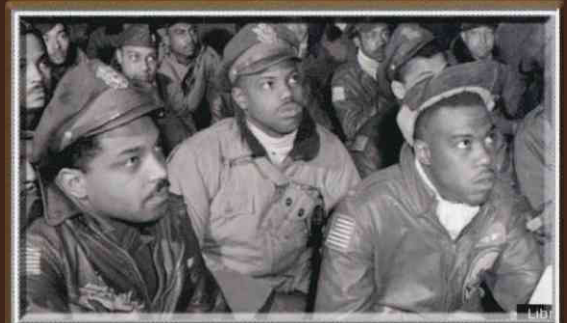
Dr. Rachel Fornes, founder and president of Home At Last Adoption Agency in Cocoa Beach who has systemically changed the lives of children and families by assuring "forever homes" globally. Internationally renowned musician Nestor Torres, the Nestor Torres Foundation, who inspires and empowers social and cultural change through music, dialogue and education via global inner city youth programs.



2012 Award Winner
Captain Charles Flowers, USAF, Ret.

The 2012 award will be presented to Tuskegee Airman Dr. Charles J. Flowers for a lifetime dedicated to the betterment of our society, and advocacy for the community. A national hero, Captain Flowers is a co-founder of the Tuskegee Airman Foundation. The Tuskegee Airmen, all African Americans from Tuskegee, Alabama went into the Army Air Corp after President Roosevelt and First Lady, Eleanor, set out to prove that African Americans were indeed intelligent enough to operate sophisticated combat aircraft. Dr. Flowers began the first African American owned airline east of the Mississippi called African Express Airlines.

In spite of adversity and limited opportunities, African Americans have played a significant role in U.S. military history over the past 300 years. They were denied military leadership roles and skilled training because many believed they lacked qualifications for combat duty. Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all African-American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941.



They become known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI) is a nonprofit organization with 55 chapters nationwide.