

2006 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶ Nomination Form

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Name of Municipality Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY SPIRIT AWARD

Name of Municipality Nominated _____

Nominated Project _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

MAYOR OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated Deputy Vice Mayor M. Margaret Bates

Nominated by City of Lauderhill

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Title _____ Department _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CLERK OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY FINANCE OFFICIAL (DIRECTOR OR OFFICER) OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Name of Individual Nominated _____

Nominated by _____

(Name of City/Town/Village)



DVM M. Margaret Bates
City of Lauderhill, FL U.S.A



Mary Margaret Bates was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. She went to Allen University, where she met and married her late husband, Leroy. She mothered two fabulous children named Donya and Marcus. Just two months ago, this proud Grandmother to Gabrielle, Kyndal, and Jalen, finished her Bachelor's degree at Phoenix University and began post graduate work.

In 1998, M. Margaret Bates was appointed to a seat on the Lauderhill Commission. In 2000, she won that same seat with 66% of the vote. Although Margaret Bates is known in her community as an accomplished Commissioner who leads with her heart...her greatest accomplishment is raising her family and leading by example. M. Margaret Bates is always uplifting, inspiring, and educating the minds, bodies, and souls of all the members of her family, both biological and extended. She is a pillar in the community and well respected by anyone who knows her. The community of Lauderhill is fortunate to have this woman of strength and integrity on the dais.

Prior to becoming a Commissioner at the City of Lauderhill, DVM Bates was always active with the City's various Martin Luther King activities. Upon her becoming a Commissioner, DVM Bates took incredible **initiative** and started what is called the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Taskforce of Lauderhill**. She called on volunteers in the community to join the Taskforce in order to help plan the first

of what became a series of annual events. Initially, their ultimate goal was to provide scholarships for youth who would not ordinarily be eligible for a scholarship. Proceeds from ticket sales to a dinner gala would go toward the scholarships. The Taskforce established the following Mission statement....

To provide year-round programs and events where all people, any age, race, sex, or religion in the City of Lauderdale and surrounding communities can learn about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Whereby the education can serve as a foundation for personal growth and further education to help keep King's Dream Alive!

The first annual event included Civil Rights activists, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, who actually marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The guests spoke to the youth at the local Boys and Girls Club and then later on to adults at a semi-formal dinner gala. The first annual event was an instant success with a sold out audience and repeated standing ovations! Before she knew it, five more years of successful MLK Events followed. Guest speakers included: Harry Belafonte, James Earl Jones, Mayor Andrew Young, Spike Lee, and Judge Greg Mathis. The 2007 program will include Martin Luther King, III. The MLK Taskforce annually raises thousands of dollars through private sponsorships which underwrite the costs involved with the events and scholarships.

DVM Bates soon added a new component to the MLK event and began the "Annual MLK Spelling Bee." Now in its third year, students prepare to compete in the Civil Rights Spelling Bee. Winners are invited to attend the annual dinner gala and are awarded Savings Bonds. Recipients of the Annual MLK scholarships also attend the gala and meet the guest speakers first-hand.

As if these events were not enough, DVM Bates soon believed an event to celebrate the rich history of Black Heritage was needed in conjunction with the MLK line-up and well overdue. Soon she announced plans for the BlazzFest – A Blues and Jazz Festival. This celebration is both entertaining and educational as Blazzfest reminds us that history demonstrates most music we enjoy today stems from the Blues. Traced back to the early African-American experiences, it influences fashioned American music including gospel choirs, jazz, rhythm and blues, pop, and rock- n'-roll. For three years now the MLK Taskforce, under her leadership has enjoyed several concerts with the likes of Roberta Flack, the S.O.S Band, and Betty Wright.

Overall, the MLK Events, overseen by DVM Bates have become a mainstay in the City of Lauderhill and South Florida. At the Direction of DVM Bates, the MLK Taskforce produces top notch signature events that are well attended, educational, entertaining and a top priority for the residents in her community.

DVM Bates demonstrates **integrity** by serving in numerous organizations, but this Commissioner is almost always an officer! Her service is on-going at the “local”, “state” and “national” levels and touches a cross section of interests. On the “local level” she began serving in 1998 as a board member of the Broward League of Cities and is currently second Vice President. On the “state level” at the Florida League of Cities, DVM Bates served as a member of the

Transportation and Urban Administration Committee and as Chair and Vice Chair and currently serving on Florida League of Cities Board of Directors. She is currently secretary of Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (FBC-LEO). On the "national level" she is a member of the Human Development Committee and is the current Vice-President of Women in Municipal Government. Serving on various committees is certainly honorable, DVM Bates dedicates extra time and energy to the causes she strongly believes in.

DVM Bates has become known as a **visionary** in her City. Lauderhill, almost 50 years old, is going through what is referred to as its' Renaissance. With that being said, beautification has become a top priority for this Commissioner. She began a program, called "Lauderhill Beautiful." This **innovative** competition rewards the most well kept homes in Lauderhill. It inspires neighborhoods to keep their grass cut, hedges trimmed, and houses painted. Winners get a sign placed in their yards identifying their accomplishment and receive a gift certificate donated by Target at a Commission meeting.

Taking beautification to the next level, this year DVM Bates wrote an ordinance to establish a Public Arts Board. With unanimous support from fellow Commissioners, DVM began the first Board tasked with making art selections for public buildings, roads, and parks. The Board, in its infancy, is already diligently working on projects that will soon come to fruition.

DVM Bates **leadership** skills are demonstrated in her headship of numerous organizations in her own community. As the President and Past President of the Lauderhill Women's Club for the past six years, the Women's Club honors the Lauderhill "Teacher of the Year." They sponsor an annual Clothing Bank in each school year-round and give scholarships to graduating seniors in the Lauderhill schools. The Lauderhill Woman's Club also contributes to the Lauderhill Boys and Girls Club and Women in Distress on an on-going basis.

At the Boys and Girls Club, DVM Bates serves as Chair of the Advisory Board. At her direction she successfully named the street "**Boys & Girls Club Drive**" in Lauderhill. The location of the Club was difficult to locate and DVM Bates felt it was a priority for the Boys and Girls Club to not only have its own identity, but also be easy to reach in order to meet the needs of children. In addition, DVM Bates also sits on the YMCA's Advisory Board. She worked closely with the Broward County School Board to get "The Endeavor Learning Center" built in Lauderhill and has initiated a Volunteer Program for Lauderhill schools. Her **commitment** to the youth has always kept her on the go!