



Erwin Raphael, General Manager of Genesis Motor America will chair the 25th Annual Caribbean American Heritage Awards Gala Honors set for Friday, November 16, 2018.

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Erwin Raphael, the General Manager of the Genesis Motor America will Chair the 25th Annual Caribbean American Heritage Awards Gala set for Friday, November 16, 2018 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington DC. The prestigious event which is under the patronage of the Caribbean Diplomatic corps recognizes the accomplishments of nine Caribbean diaspora leaders in various fields, and is the leading honors event in the United States America for people in and from the Caribbean diaspora.

About the Gala Host Erwin Raphael

Erwin Raphael, who hails from Dominica and grew up in the US Virgin Islands is a 25-year veteran of the automotive industry, and is responsible for the strategic direction and management of all Genesis Motors operations in the United States. Prior to his current appointment, Raphael was the Western Region Director and General Manager for Hyundai Motor America, overseeing operations of more than 165 Hyundai dealerships in the 12 Western-most states. Raphael has also served as the Director of Engineering and

Quality at Hyundai, where he was responsible for new vehicle engineering, quality improvement of production vehicles, technical training and support, as well as warranty planning and operations.

Prior to joining Hyundai, Raphael held a number of key leadership positions in vehicle development, engineering, manufacturing, sales and marketing with Chrysler LLC, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, and the International Truck and Engine Company. Raphael holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Ohio State University, where he also studied applied mathematics and completed graduate studies in economics. Raphael served eight years in the United States Army, most recently in the 364th Engineers Group in the 83rd ARCOM. He currently serves on the Army Advisory Council.

About the Gala Honorees

The 2018 honorees are as follows: Jerry Butler of Bahamian heritage for Outstanding Public Service; Alyson Cambridge, opera singer, of Guyanese heritage, the Vanguard Award; Trinidad-born Dr. Andre Cropper, inventor and engineer to receive the Excellence in Science and Technology Award; Tony Harris, CEO of eMagic, will receive the Forerunner Award for his pioneering role in Artificial Intelligence enabled process systems; Sherry Herbert of Black Enterprise who hails from St. Kitts and Nevis, will receive the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Corporate America; Inner Circle Band, will receive the Luminary Award for their 50 years of contributions to the worldwide spread of reggae music; Dr. Karen Nelson, President of J.Craig Ventner and one of the world's leading genome scientists, who hails from Jamaica will receive the Trailblazer Award; and last but not least, Jamaica's beloved comedian, Hon. Oliver Samuels O.D. will receive the Marcus Garvey Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2018 Gala will be hosted by television personality Dame Maureen Bunyan, who is herself of Caribbean heritage. Entertainment for the evening will be anchored by top Caribbean Band in Washington DC, IMAGE Band, proudly celebrating its 40-year anniversary; and PanLara. Event partners include CaribNation TV which will co-executive produce the CARAH Gala for television and Boom Audio Production Services.

To learn more about the Caribbean American Heritage Awards, visit www.caribbeanheritageawards.org.

Media interested in learning more, attending or partnership should contact press@icsdc.org



**CARIBBEAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE AWARDS**
A Celebration of Excellence and Service
Gala

Music by
IMAGE BAND
&
PANLama

Friday, November 16, 2018



Dame Maureen Bynan
GALA HOST



Erwin Raphael
GALA CHAIR

HONOREES



Jerry Butler
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE



Alyson Cambridge
VANGUARD



Andre Cropper PhD
EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Tony Harris
FORERUNNER



Sheroy Herbert
OUTSTANDING CORPORATE AMERICA



Inner Circle
LUMINARY



Jean-Claude Legagneur
EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS



Karen Nelson PhD
TRAILBLAZER



Hon. Oliver Samuels O.D.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL | 14TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
RECEPTION @ 6:30 PM | DINNER & AWARDS @ 7:30 PM | AFTER PARTY @ 10:30 PM
WWW.CARIBBEANHERITAGEAWARDS.ORG

About the CARAH AWARDS

The Caribbean American Heritage (CARAH) Awards, which is held under the patronage of the Caribbean Diplomatic Corps celebrates members of the Caribbean diaspora who have been exceptionally successful in their fields at the national or international level. "ICS started this event 25 years ago in an effort to highlight to the American society at large the caliber of individuals that claimed Caribbean American ancestry, and to provide a forum for honoring and recognizing their contributions to America and the world," said Dr. Nelson, Founder and President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. "This remains important today, given the rising anti-immigrant rhetoric."

Over the past 25 years, over 100 leaders and influencers such as Susan Taylor, former editor-in-chief of Essence magazine; Rita Marley, reggae matriarch and philanthropist; Dr. Velma Scantlebury, transplant surgeon; George Willie, CEO of Bert Smith and Company; actress Cicely Tyson; and Earl Graves Sr., publisher of Black Enterprise, have received CARAH Honors. Friends of the Caribbean lauded have included Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congressman Eliot Engel; and the Hon. Andrew Young.

Celebrating 25 Years of Honoring Excellence
.. the National Caribbean American Heritage
Awards