



For Immediate Release – June 10, 2019

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**CIRA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TRAILBLAZER AWARDS
THROUGH 6th ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

INDIANAPOLIS – On Thursday, June 13, 2019, the Central Indiana Realtist Association (CIRA) will honor its 2019 Trailblazers and “Best of the Best” Award Winners at its 6th Annual Trailblazers Luncheon. This year’s keynote speaker will be Mark Alston, President of the California Association of Real Estate Brokers and Chairman of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers Political Action Committee.

“African American homeownership rates are at all-time lows. Now, more than ever, groups like CIRA need to be active in working to ensure the same American dream for all, regardless of their race, color, or ethnicity,” stated Delores Braxton-Kennedy, President of CIRA. “Our annual Trailblazer Luncheon is a means to honor those who have broken barriers to ensure that everyone who has the ability and want to own a home, has it.”

This year, the CIRA will give two “Best of the Best” awards to individuals for their contributions toward transforming neighborhoods and keeping homeownership a reality for those who have been disenfranchised. The CIRA 2019 “Best of the Best” awardees are:

- Erica Petty Saunders, Affordable Housing Compliance Analyst, Federal Home Loan Bank, Indianapolis
- LaToya Dix, Real Estate Broker, Carpenter Realtors, Zionsville

CIRA will also give Trailblazer Awards to two individuals who broke down barriers and through glass ceilings in their respective industries. These pioneers have made remarkable strides and significant accomplishments that have had long term benefits in our community toward inclusiveness. These extraordinary trailblazers are:

- Fred D. Page, a WWII Veteran and an Original Home Builder of Flanner House Homes in Ransom Place in Indianapolis
- Leigh Riley Evans, CEO of the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation in Indianapolis

This year's Luncheon will also give special recognition to Dr. Daisy Lloyd who passed away last month. Dr. Lloyd was the first minority, both female and black, to become a member of the MIBOR Realtor Association. Dr. Lloyd was also a 2015 CIRA Trailblazer Awardee. The recognition will be given by Shelley Specchio, Chief Executive Officer, of the MIBOR Realtor Association.

"We, the membership of CIRA, celebrate and honor our Trailblazers and 'Best of the Best' award winners. These individuals have blazed the trail for so many. Our Trailblazer recipients have further paved the way by being the first in their respective purpose," continued Braxton-Kennedy. "Without *them*, there would be no *us*!! CIRA award winners continue to make a difference by their contributions of service, dedication, and commitment in promoting homeownership."

The 6th Annual CIRA Trailblazer's Luncheon will take place on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel. The event will start with networking time with exhibitors beginning at 10:00 AM followed by the program start at 11:30 AM. Student scholarships will also be given. Tickets are still available.

This year's luncheon sponsors include: Centier Bank, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp, First Financial Bank, Union Savings Bank, MIBOR Realtor Association, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Key Bank, Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, Home Guide Realty Services, The Home & Finance Show, and Chicago Title.

#CIRATrailblazers2019 #CIRARocks

It is the mission of the Central Indiana Realist Association (CIRA) to improve the quality of life of the un-served and the under-served by promoting home ownership and providing real estate services that support this goal. It is also CIRA's mission to enhance the economic development and improvement of their members and the community they serve. Additional information on CIRA can be found at <http://ciranareb.org/> or via its [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) page.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. To learn about the FHCCI or for more information, visit: www.fhcci.org