2019 Medal of Glory Award goes to Audrey Edmonson, Bill Talbert and the People and Government of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

WASHINGTON, D.C.- The Foundation for Democracy in Africa’s Medal of Glory Award [MOGA], for 2019, will be awarded to the Honorable Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman, Miami Dade County Commission, Mr. William “Bill” Talbert III, CDME President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), and the People and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

MOGA is being presented to Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson for her Leadership in Championing the Miami-Dade County Gateway to Africa Initiative, and Strengthening Trade and Investment Ties with Africa.

Mr. Bill Talbert for his commitment to Championing the Miami-Dade County Gateway to Africa Initiative and Strengthening Tourism; and Cultural Ties with Africa.


The Medal of Glory Award, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa’s (FDA) highest honor is given, annually, to exemplary leaders for extraordinary contributions to democracy, and good governance, and the advancement of trade, investment and cultural ties in Africa.

Past recipients of the award, include: Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, 2018; Ato Girma Wake, Retired CEO, Ethiopian Airlines, 2010; Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2010; The People of the Republic of Burkina Faso, 2010; Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika of Malawi; 2009; Dr. Robert Ingram, Vice Chair, Miami Dade County School Board; 2005; Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami Dade County, 2004; Honorable Dennis C Moss, Commissioner of Miami Dade County, 2004; Honorable Dr. Barbara Carey-Schumer, Chair, Dade County Board of Commissioners, 2004; Honorable Senator Javier Souto, Miami Dade County Commission; Celia Cruz; Singer and Entertainer; posthumously in 2004; President Alpha Omar Konare of Mali; 2002; President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal; Honorable Senator Connie Mack of Florida; 2000; Honorable Senator Bob Graham of Florida, 2000Dr. Amadou Mahtar M’Bow, Director General of the United Nations, Scientific and Cultural Organization (1974 – 1987); Obasanjo of Nigeria; 1999; Dr. Dorothy Height,
2019 Medal of Glory Award goes to Audrey Edmonson, Bill Talbert
and the People and Government of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

President of the National Council of Negro Women; 1999; Mr. C. Payne Lucas, President of Africare, 1999; President Abdou Diouf of Senegal; 1999

Dr. Gershwin Blyden, Board Chairman, FDA stated that “I am delighted to congratulate Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson and Mr. Bill Talbert, and to thank Mayor Giménez and the people of Miami Dade County for their unrelenting commitment and support to the “Miami-Dade County Gateway to Africa Initiative for more than twenty-five years.” Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the People and Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, President Felix Tsheshekidi for their peaceful transfer of power during the December 2018 elections and commitment to the democratic process under the new administration”.

The Medal of Glory Awards will be presented during the 21st annual AfrICANDO Awards Gala and Dinner on October 17, 2019 at the Miami Airport & Convention Center/Double Tree by Hilton Hotel.

Awards will also be presented, to Ethiopian Airlines for “First Schedule Direct Air Cargo Service” between Addis Ababa- Miami International Airport (MIA); and to Royal Air Morocco, for “First Schedule direct Air Service between Casablanca and Miami International Airport (MIA).

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) is a development organization committed to promoting participatory democracy, economic growth and sustainable development throughout Africa. Founded in 1994, FDA is a 501c 3 not for profit, non-governmental, non-partisan institution headquartered in Washington, DC with offices in Miami, Florida, USA.

FDA’s mission is to: (1) implement culturally sensitive programs designed to strengthen and enhance the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom and economic plurality throughout Africa, and (2) integrate emerging African democracies into the mainstream of the global economy, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity in Africa.

For more information please contact – The Foundation for Democracy in Africa – or visit the website at www.democracy-africa.org or call 202-331-1333.
Email: comments@democracy-africa.org

###