

## **Madge D. Owens Receives NOBEL/Women's Highest Award**

Madge D. Owens was named a "Phenomenal Trailblazer for 2011" by the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative/Women. The prestigious "Trailblazer Award" is the highest award given to a woman by NOBEL/Women. Owens was honored for her work with the Georgia General Assembly, Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials and her accomplishments as an author.

Her award was presented by Rep. Tyrone Brooks, president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, during NOBEL/Women's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon.

"I am so honored by this award and humbled by my inclusion among the truly phenomenal women recognized today. I am most grateful," Owens said in her remarks. "When I first went to the State Capitol as an aide for my mentor, the late Rep. J. C. Daugherty, I needed a job. I still need a job, but most importantly, I love the job I do. That's because of representatives like Tyrone Brooks, Al Williams, former chairman of the GLBC, Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague, my office suite members and all the members of GABEO and the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, who have supported me through the years and remain on the battlefield fighting for all Georgians.

"I started writing mysteries because I wanted to read about characters who share my background and interests. I wanted to give my readers a glimpse of the inner city Atlanta in which I grew up and let them envision the wonderful neighborhoods filled with college-educated, professional people who worked hard and struggled to give their children better lives and greater opportunities. I want to leave my readers with information about numerous subjects, especially Georgia history and government."

Owens thanked NOBEL/Women, under the leadership of the Honorable Sen. Sharon Weston Broome, president, for their work in encouraging, empowering, and promoting women in government. "The reason you are all dynamic leaders today, is because you first knew how to serve – and have never, ever forgotten the true meaning of public service."

This year's honorees include: Mrs. Evelyn Lowery, The Honorable Rep. Judy Manning, The Honorable Judge Penny Brown Reynolds, and Mrs. Pat Martin.

Owens is the author of two novels and weaves exciting tales of mystery and suspense. She is currently working on her third novel. Her numerous awards include recognition from the National Council of Negro Women (Southern Region – Atlanta, GA), GABEO, former Secretary of State and U. S. Senator Max Cleland, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Georgia State Holiday Commission.