

Press Release

Press Contact: John Andrews, Economic Development Director
Phone Number: (909) 395-2242
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[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

City of Ontario
Economic Development Agency

CITY OF ONTARIO'S STATE OF THE CITY LEADS THE WAY FOR 2018

On March 28, 2018, the Ontario City Council hosted nearly 1,000 business leaders for its annual State of the City: Business Leadership Symposium. The event attracted representatives from the business, development, and real estate community from all over Southern California for a world class networking event with the region's top deal makers.

The 2018 State of the City: Business Leadership Symposium's theme, *Leading The Way*, displayed how the City of Ontario continues to be the center of it all. Discussions focused on topics such as leadership, community, business, tourism, and infrastructure. Ontario Officials recapped on accomplishments and partnerships made over the year and also gave some insight on what to expect in the future.

This year's featured speaker, *America's First African American Female Combat Pilot*, Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour, inspired attendees to make gutsy moves and create breakthrough results within their organizations. The number one mission that FlyGirl shared with attendees was to connect to the shared bottom line...One Mission, One Goal, One Team.

Attendees were also presented with information from City Officials that discussed Ontario's commitment to public service; enhancements made in various parks, residential and commercial neighborhoods; gave updates on future developments and plans for the City; and showed how the City continues to lead the way in making Ontario the most business-friendly City in Southern California.

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Following the City Council and featured speaker presentations, guests enjoyed the networking forum where the Ontario City Council were present to discuss the details of development and business growth throughout the City, as well as speak on future projects.

The 2018 State of the City: Business Leadership Symposium event sponsors include:

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For more information regarding this event or to view the event videos, please visit www.ontariosoc.com or contact John Andrews, Economic Development Director at (909) 395-2242.

*** Note: A highlight reel will be posted in April at www.ontariosoc.com ***

About the City of Ontario

The City of Ontario is *Leading The Way* in creating urban lifestyle districts that generate sustainable places to live, work, play, and visit. Located just 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, the City of Ontario is ideally situated as Southern California's gateway. With three major interstates, two railroads and the Ontario International Airport, Ontario offers direct access from Los Angeles to the rest of California, and to North America. With approximately 170,000 residents and residential development on the rise, Ontario looks to double its population in the next 20 years, making it one of the 100 most populated Cities in the nation. Complementing its business and residential core, Ontario dazzles with its amenities such as the Ontario Convention Center, Citizens Business Bank Arena, and the Ontario Mills Mall. To learn more about the City of Ontario, visit www.ontarioca.gov or call (909) 395-2000.

About Ontario's State of the City

The 2018 State of the City: Business Leadership Symposium was held on March 28, 2018 at the Ontario Convention Center, located at 2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, California 91764. Registration and Pre-Event Networking began at 5 PM followed by the State of the City Program presented by the Ontario City Council with a featured speaker, at 6 PM. Following the State of the City Program attendees were invited to join the Networking Forum.

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About Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour

Leveraging her “Breakthrough Mentality” and “Get Gutsy” mindset, Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour propelled herself from beat cop to combat pilot in a record-breaking three years and became **America’s First African American Female Combat Pilot**. As featured on CNN, MSNBC, The View, FOX News, Oprah Winfrey and others, FlyGirl’s fresh, edgy style, high, contagious energy and unique, gutsy essence jump off the stage, page and screen and moves people to action. Since 2007, she has inspired countless organizations and individuals to make gutsy moves and create breakthrough results.

Commanding corporate, STEM-centric and female executive and entrepreneur audiences across the globe, FlyGirl’s most requested keynotes, **Zero to Breakthrough**,™ **One Mission, One Goal, One Team**™ and **Get Gutsy. Live Gutsy!**,™ deliver messages that resonate: “You **have** permission to Engage;” “Take off from where you **are**,” “We win or lose **together**,” and “In order to succeed you **gotta ‘Get Gutsy!**”

A Tennessee native and graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, FlyGirl holds two honorary doctorates, was a Diversity Liaison Officer to the Pentagon for Headquarters Marine Corps and is a member of the COMCAST/NBCUniversal Joint Diversity Council. She has received numerous awards as a pioneering pilot, to include her commanding role in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). She was the Marine Corps’ first African American Female pilot, first African American woman on the Nashville Police Department’s motorcycle squad, a Camp Pendleton Female Athlete of the Year and two-time titleholder in their Strongest Warrior Competition, and a running back for the women’s pro football team, the San Diego ‘Sunfire.’

FlyGirl’s first signature book, **Zero to Breakthrough**,™ was released in 2011.

FlyGirl is married and resides in the Atlanta, GA area. In 2015, she gave birth to “FlyBaby,” *her* gutsiest move yet!

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