



## **Reverend Floyd Douglas Harris Jr.**

Southwest Fresno Community Leader Award

*4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Risk Takers, Dream Makers" Awards Luncheon*

Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr. is known to many in the Southwest Fresno area as a community & political civil rights activist. In 1982 as a teenager, Floyd started cutting lawns with his father. In 1989, due to a family crisis he declined a 4 year college basketball scholarship. He went on to take up another trade, joining the Cement Mason's Union where he received an apprenticeship certificate. Within that same year, he volunteered his services in the community and became a designated School Bus Driver and Instructor for the West Fresno School District, EOC, the Orange Center, Pacific Union and Washington Union High School.

In 1990, Floyd and his father founded the Harris Lawn Manicuring Service. For nine years Floyd held the position as Superintendent of Operations, getting weed abatement contracts from several different agencies such as the City's of Fresno & Clovis, Union Pacific & Santa Fe Railroads, PG& E and other companies throughout the state of California. In 1998, Floyd started his own business C & H. Landscaping Maintenance Service which was named after his daughter Chynell Harris. While working in his business, Floyd began donating food and services to senior's citizen in his community. From his experience with the City of Fresno concerning weed abatement, he spearheaded a task force to revitalize of the community he lives in. He began by establishing the Walnut Garden Neighborhood Watch. Some targeted projects for the Neighborhood Watch were cleaning of the alleyways behind residential homes, cleaning yards of abandoned homes and tree trimming and maintenance of gutters & drains.

Floyd was appointed by his community and Council Members for the Edison Southwest Advisory Committee and as Chairperson of Southwest Fresno Neighborhood Watch. Rev. Harris could see the injustices going on in his community and knew that he needed help from someone on a national level. Rev. Harris contacted Rev. Al Sharpton in New York and from this conversation In December 2002, was granted a charter. In May of 2003 the NAN (National Action Network) Chapter in California was formed. Rev Harris opened the local chapter in Fresno and a year later was appointed to be the California State President. Rev. Harris has traveled across the country educating and empowering people to take a stand for justice. Floyd is actively working with the Central California Criminal Justice Committee to reassure that the Fresno community gets an independent Police Auditor. Focusing on the Southwest Fresno area as well as being an advisor to the department, Rev. Harris was approached by his community to represent them on the Fresno Police Department Advisory Board. In 2006 Rev. Harris Founded a civil rights organization call National Network In Action (NNIA). Rev. Harris appointed Field Marshalls to the National Network in Action across different cities and states: Norris Kemp, Bakersfield CA; Dyronnica Harible: Antioch, CA; Grantrina Davis: Visalia CA; Sconny Scroggins: Kansas City KS; Rev. Tim Malone: Yolo Sacramento CA, Rhonda Erwin: West Sacramento CA.

On August 29, 2003 Rev. Harris was involved in a civil disobedience rally with Fresno's SEIU and 10,000 Home care Workers. Rev. Harris spoke at the rally in support of a better contract for better wages, medical insurance, and access to job training. Rev. Harris took part in blocking the doorways of the County Hall of records so that no one could go in or out. The sheriff department arrested everyone but Rev. Harris. On June 24, 2004 after almost one year of difficult negotiations, the Board of Supervisors approved the SEIU's first contract.

In 2008 Rev. Harris stood in support of Fresno Homeless Community against the City of Fresno regarding their consistent violations against the Homeless community. As a result against those violations the city was demanded to pay \$ 2.3 million for their violations. Rev. Harris has traveled across the country exposing racism and injustice. He is dedicated to educating his people about standing boldly and knowing their rights. Harris states, "We will teach them how to use their own resources and empower their neighborhoods through education". Rev. Harris continues by saying that his Chapters will build its membership on the same concept at the local and national level based on visibility, support and voicing out against injustice when it occurs. Floyd's demonstrations begin wherever injustice begins; whether it's in the form of a protest, a rally, or a meeting of minds. The NNIA will Educate, Motivate, Energize, Mobilize and organize to take our community to a higher level.