

# In Memory of Marion Britton and Waleska Martinez



## **Marion Britton 1948 - 2001**

Marion Britton's career with the Census Bureau spanned 21 years during which she worked with dedication and distinction on all major Regional Office field data collection operations including the Current Survey programs, the Decennial Census, and Census Tests.

She began her career in 1980 in New York City as a Field Operations Assistant during the 1980 Census. In 1981, Ms. Britton accepted a position as a Survey Clerk in the New York Regional Office. Desiring a supervisory position, she applied for and was selected in 1983 to participate in the Census Bureau sponsored Upward Mobility Program. In 1989, upon her successful completion of this program, she advanced to a Supervisory Survey Statistician position in the New York Regional Office. In recognition of her considerable abilities to manage technically and operationally complex field data collection operations, Ms. Britton was selected to work on the 1995 Census Test in Paterson, New Jersey, managing the critical coverage measurement operations. The 1995 Census Test was an essential part of the

development of the overall design of Census 2000. Ms. Britton had also participated in the initial test of the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing coverage measurement instrument and training and contributed input that proved to become beneficial on a nationwide basis.

After her considerable contributions to the successful completion of the 1995 Census Test, she was promoted in rapid succession to the position of Coordinator in the New York Regional Office in 1996, where she managed and directed several Supervisory Survey Statisticians assigned to Current Survey programs and then to Assistant Regional Census Manager in 1997. In this position, she was instrumental in leading the crucial preparations and early operations for Census 2000. In 1998, Ms. Britton was called upon to serve as the Assistant Regional Director and given full operational and managerial responsibility for the New York Regional Office during the period of time while Census 2000 was being conducted. This was also a period of major expansion of the Current Survey programs. Shortly after this, she was selected to serve in an expanded managerial role as the Deputy Regional Director which included providing direct guidance and leadership for the Census 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. After the completion of Census 2000, Ms. Britton returned to her position as the Assistant Regional Director for the New York Regional Office.

During her career with the Census Bureau, Ms. Britton earned several major honors and awards for her outstanding managerial and technical skills and innovative contributions. She received the Census Award of Excellence in 1988, the Bronze Medal Award, the highest honorary award granted by the Census Bureau, in 1993, and the National Partnership for Reinventing Government's "Hammer Award" in 1999 for her work on the American Community Survey.

## **Waleska Martinez 1963 - 2001**

Waleska Martinez's career with the Census Bureau spanned 13 years during which she worked with strong commitments to excellence and innovation on all major Regional Office automation operations in support of the Current Survey programs, the Decennial Census, and Census Tests.

She began her career in 1988 as a clerk in the New York Regional Census Center. Within a matter of months she was promoted to an Assistant Manager for Administration position and then to an Administrative Specialist position. During the 1990 Census, Ms. Martinez provided exemplary payroll / personnel support and other administrative support and guidance to all areas of the Regional Census Center and the District Offices. In addition, she developed specialized automation reports and spreadsheets that provided managers with valuable, easy-to-use information on the status of critical administrative activities.

In 1991, upon the successful completion of her 1990 Census Administrative Specialist duties and responsibilities, Ms. Martinez was transferred to the New York Regional Office as a Special Survey Technician. On the basis of her considerable academic and technical background and experience in the areas of computer science and management information systems, Ms. Martinez was called upon to serve as the Regional Office Computer Specialist in early 1993. During the following years of major expansion in Regional Office automation and the introduction of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing for the major Current Survey programs, Ms. Martinez kept the New York Regional Office in the forefront of automation support, training, and performance.

In 1998, Ms. Martinez was selected to serve as the Census 2000 Automation Supervisor for the New York Region and was given full technical, operational and managerial responsibility for the entire range of automation hardware, software, and support including a complex telecommunications network for the Regional Census Center and the 39 Census 2000 Local Census Offices.

During her career with the Census Bureau, Ms. Martinez was the frequent recipient of performance awards and special act awards in recognition of her outstanding technical and managerial skills and innovative contributions in all areas of automation. She received the Bronze Medal Award, the highest honorary award granted by the Census Bureau in 1998.

