



# THE 38<sup>th</sup> NAACP IMAGE AWARDS®

www.naacpimageawards.net

4929 Wilshire Blvd. | Suite 310 | Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Tel. (323) 938-5268 | Fax (323) 938-5045

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2007

Contacts: Jennifer Price/Robin Mesger  
The Lippin Group, 323-965-1990

Richard J. McIntire, NAACP  
(410) 580-5125

## SOLEDAD O'BRIEN TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT'S AWARD AT 38<sup>th</sup> NAACP IMAGE AWARDS

*Award-winning journalist to receive honor during live broadcast on FOX*

NAACP President and CEO Bruce S. Gordon today announced that Soledad O'Brien, co-anchor of CNN's "American Morning," will receive the 2007 NAACP President's Award. The prestigious award, given in recognition of special achievement and distinguished public service, will be presented on Friday, March 2 during a live broadcast (8 p.m. ET/PT) of the 38<sup>th</sup> Image Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

"We are delighted to recognize Soledad O'Brien and her achievements with this honor," said Gordon. "She is being recognized for her humanitarian efforts and journalistic excellence. She is also an intelligent, highly educated, powerful role model for all young women. She has been an inspiration to her viewers and colleagues through her welcoming smile, genuine concern for people and her consummate professionalism."

O'Brien joined CNN's "American Morning" in 2003, and since then has been a part of the team that broadcast award-winning coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath and the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia in December 2004.

"There is a lot of diversity in reporting but Soledad often represents those who are not represented and gives them a voice," Gordon added. "When she reports the news, she reports all of it. She tells the stories that need to be told and asks the hard questions that need to be asked and follows up often when others have moved on."

Before joining CNN, O'Brien anchored NBC's "Weekend Today" show. She covered the Columbia Shuttle disaster, the Columbine school shootings, the recovery of Elian Gonzales, Yasser Arafat's burial, the funeral of Pope John Paul II and several other major new stories over the past decade. O'Brien was the only broadcast journalist to travel with first lady Laura Bush to Paris and Moscow. She has also reported from London on terror attacks in that country and anchored live coverage on the hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

(more)

**FOX**

## **NAACP/O'BRIEN--Page 2**

O'Brien graduated from Harvard University with a degree in English and American literature. She has been awarded honorary doctorates by Sienna College and Mercy College. She is active in the community by engaging in endeavors that focus on young people.

Previous President's Award recipients include Susan Taylor, Ella Fitzgerald, Jesse Jackson, Ryan White, Kent & Carmen Amos, Bryant Gumbel, Alexis Herman, Lauryn Hill, Tavis Smiley, Tom Joyner, Condoleezza Rice, President Bill Clinton, T.D. Jakes and Venus and Serena Williams.

Major sponsors of the 38th NAACP Image Awards are FedEx, Verizon, and General Motors. Additional sponsors include American Airlines, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Chrysler, Diageo and Sprint.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

###