



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

## LaTanga Blair

GUSTAVO RIVERA May 18, 2012



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**Award:** Honoring Our Veterans

**Year:** 2012

LaTanga was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She joined the Army at the age of twenty in order to travel the world and gain a new perspective about herself through exposure to diverse cultures and people.

During her time in the Army, LaTanga served in a peace time operation called Sinai Peace Keeping and Observers, which upheld the peace between Israel and Egypt. She also processed soldiers in Dharhran, Saudi Arabia, and assisted the Airforce with loading outgoing aircraft, and setting up and assisting with administrations. During Operation Desert Storm, LaTanga worked as Acting E-5 Sergeant.

After returning safely to the States, LaTanga wanted to make sure to continue living by the Army's motto, "Be All That You Can Be." She does so by serving the community of the Bronx as a Veterans Affairs Volunteer at the James A. Peters Bronx VA Medical Center in Chaplain Voluntary Services, an outreach program targeted at veterans in New York City and the surrounding areas. Through this outreach program, LaTanga attends veteran events in order to inform female veterans of assistance and benefits they are entitled to and refer them to the nearest VA Medical Center. In addition to her work at the Medical Center, LaTanga volunteers as an "on location" camera person for NomadnessTV.com, which investigates community affairs in foreign countries. LaTanga also enjoys spending quality time with her daughter and son. LaTanga states of her volunteer work, "by far, giving back to my fellow veterans is the most rewarding and no award could give me more satisfaction than seeing the smile of a veteran and a sincere thank you!"

The country, state of New York and the Bronx are in debt to LaTanga for noble service to this country and continued service to her community. The Bronx is proud to call such an upstanding citizen our own.