

## MetroTex Leader Honored for His Dedication and Service

**MetroTex Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>**

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### **Antonio Matarranz**

Recipient of the Leadership HOPE Award  
Presented by  
The National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>

# Leadership HOPE Award Presented to Antonio Matarranz

**Antonio Matarranz**, President, Avangard Real Estate Services was honored with the National Association of REALTORS® Leadership HOPE Award for his dedication and involvement in minority homeownership. Matarranz was honored during a luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the 2005 REALTORS® Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo, being held May 9-14.

Matarranz, an architect and native of Barcelona, Spain, pioneered working with corporate entities in the Dallas area to help them recognize and meet the need for affordable housing. He partnered with banks, mortgage lenders, insurance agencies, and housing inspectors to help them to understand the cultural differences when working with the Hispanic population. He developed the first Dallas-area seminar for first-time buyers, and has taught the course to more than 9,000 families.

According to Matarranz the award is a great tribute to what has been accomplished in the past but there is still a lot of work ahead.

"We have a lot more to do in minority homeownership to achieve parity," said Matarranz. "I don't want this award to be the end of my career. I want this to be a motivation for others to follow."

The luncheon feature keynote speaker U.S. Rep. Michael Honda (D-Calif.). Honda knows first-hand the barriers minorities face to attain

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ments and even a church.

The HOPE Awards (Home Ownership Participation for Everyone) program was created in 2001 by a partnership of seven real estate organizations to identify and recognize six individuals and organizations that do an outstanding job of furthering the mission of minority homeownership. The awards are given every two years.

The six winners were recognized at the luncheon symposium, as well as at a black-tie gala dinner that rivaled the Academy Awards—complete with a 14-foot HOPE Awards statue behind the main stage, musical entertainment, and a crowd of 1,000 attendees who packed the central atrium of the National Museum Building.

The HOPE Partners include the Asian Real Estate Association of America, the California Association of Real Estate Brokers, the Chinese American Real Estate Professionals Association, the Chinese Real Estate Association of America, the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, and the National Association of REALTORS®.



**Three HOPE Award honorees enjoy a reception on the rooftop deck of NAR's new legislative building in Washington, D.C. From left, Allen Chiang from Presidential Real Estate Inc., Beth Llewellyn, Partnership for Homeownership Foundation and Antonio Matarranz, Avangard Real Estate Services, Inc. (Photo: Randy Santos Photography)**

Other winners of the 2005 HOPE Awards included:

- **Project of the Year:** Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, Indio, Calif. The organization's Mutual Self-Help Program has helped the families of migrant farm workers build and buy nearly 900 homes.

- **Media Award:** HOMEWORDS Program, *The Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles. The HOMEWORDS program teaches more than 114,000 middle school and high school students about homeownership. The program has been adopted by a number of other newspapers in California and other states.

- **Brokerage Award:** Allen Chiang of Presidential Real Estate Inc., Rowland, Calif. Chiang has made a career of teaching Chinese immigrants about homeownership. His company publishes monthly real estate magazines in Chinese and holds homebuyer seminars in the community.

- **Education Award:** Little Haiti Housing Association Inc., Miami. LHHA provides homeownership education and credit counseling to the residents of the Little Haiti community in northeast Miami. The majority of the residents served by LHHA are first-generation Haitian immigrants with a minimal understanding of financial institutions, mortgage lending, or credit. More than 140 families have become homeowners through LHHA, and none have defaulted on their loans.

- **Finance Award:** Partnership for Homeownership Foundation of Springfield, Ill. The Foundation's Quincy Initiative promotes minority homeownership by offering low-cost downpayment loans and debt counseling. Innovative partnerships with local lenders have resulted in a total of 23 loans to low-income families last year.