



**Frontline:** the visible forefront in any action, activity, or field

**Soldier:** A person dedicated to a cause

Gerald E. Thompson, The co-founder and Executive Director of Pathways To Your Future (PTYF) created The Frontline Soldiers.

The Frontline Soldiers was a spinoff of The Inglewood Division of Men Against Destruction Defending Against Social disorder, M.A.D. D.A.D.S. a national organization founded in 1995 and became a LA Chapter in 1996 where Gerald as an original member wanted to be sure all men, fathers or not were welcome.

**The Frontline Soldiers (FS) originally known as "A Gathering of Men"** was holistically designed to build an organized network of men strategically designed to foster unity, solidarity and economic empowerment toward the reduction and elimination of gang killings and violence of any kind, alcohol, tobacco & other drug abuse to insure all people have a better quality of life. As MAD DADS had started, Gerald wanted to make sure we did not forget the heroic action of the women of our communities, for he believes without the women of our communities holding down our homes and communities the violence would be even more overwhelming.

**The Frontline Soldiers Wall of Fame came about to give credit to those men and women (coaches, mentors, political servants, teachers, community small business owners, students, senior citizens that were still in the struggle on the frontline leading the way for those of us new leaders etc.**

A community volunteer committee was formed so to each year the former recipients and founder Gerald Thompson come together select from a number of potential candidates to be inducted and immortalized on PTYF's website: **"Frontline Soldiers Wall of Fame"**.

The Annual Award Breakfast now in its 27 year became Pathways Annual Fundraiser.

### **Core Components:**

- 1. Faith-Based Empowerment Team (FBET):**
- 2. Unity and Solidarity Empowerment Team (USET):**
- 3. Economic Empowerment Team (EET):**
- 4. Event Planning Empowerment Team (EPET):**
- 5. Fatherhood Initiative and Mentor Empowerment Team:**
- 6. Political Action Empowerment Team (PAET):**