

M. Victoria CummockMember
National Board of Governors**Victoria Cummock Biography**

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, June 28, 2006 Victoria Diaz Cummock is a nationally-recognized activist working primarily in the areas of Disaster Crisis Management, Aviation Security and Counter-terrorism. Since the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed her 38-year-old husband John, along with 269 other passengers, Victoria has worked with three Presidents and their Administrations, testified before 23 Congressional Committees, and in 1990 President George H. Bush's Commission on Aviation Security & Terrorism.

In an effort to protect Americans from terrorism and secure air passengers, her work has brought about many legislative changes including the 1990 Aviation Security Improvement Act, the 1996 Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the 1996 Iran-Libya Sanctions Act. She became a White House employee in 1996, when President Bill Clinton appointed her as Commissioner to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety & Security, chaired by Vice President Al Gore. Concurrently, she served as a board member of (FAA) Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Security Advisory Committee.

In order to better address the needs of air disaster victims' families, Victoria spearheaded the drafting of the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act. This legislation, signed October 1996, enables the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to designate the American Red Cross as the lead organization to coordinate care of air disaster survivors and victims' families by trained professionals, which was previously blocked by the airline industry.

Victoria was instrumental in forming and was President of the Families of Pan Am 103/Lockerbie Group. She has represented this group both domestically in Washington and the United Nations as spokesperson in the media, and internationally with the Crown and Scottish authorities.

Additionally, she is involved in trying to raise awareness among mental health providers, educators, counselors and disaster professionals regarding the different needs of families of sudden death/homicide from those of other bereaved families. For more than 17 years, Victoria has worked as a disaster victims' advocate during acts of terrorism and air disasters. She has been published numerous times for her efforts.

After the 1994 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, she helped write President Clinton's speech for the memorial service and spent a few weeks in Oklahoma City, working with the victims' families during the process of rescue/recovery, under the sponsorship of the American Red Cross. In 1996, she worked along with the NTSB, the American Red Cross and local authorities in both the TWA 800 air disaster in New York and the ValuJet 592 air disaster in the Florida Everglades. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Victoria along with the Families of Pan Am 103/Lockerbie worked with the families of the victims, helping to establish the Sept. 11 victims' advocacy groups in New York and Washington.

Most recently, she played a direct response role during the 1994 and 1995 hurricane seasons, as well as the Chaulks air disaster in December 2005. Her disaster relief efforts, on behalf of the American people, have spanned almost 20 years, responding to air disasters, acts of terrorism and hurricanes, through the Red Cross. For more than a decade, Victoria has been an active volunteer, member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the American Red Cross Greater Miami & the Keys Chapter. In the 125 year history of the American Red Cross, Victoria is the first person from Miami to be appointed to the National Board of Governors.

In addition to her work as an activist, she owns Cummock Designs, Inc., a residential interior design company that she has operated for 20 years. She is a founding member of the Children's Bereavement Center of Miami. Former Vice President and Board member of The Vizcayans and is very committed to local architectural preservation and restoration. Victoria is an active supporter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the New Life Homeless Family Shelter in Miami. She served 10-plus years on the Board of the Cocoplum Civic Association. Victoria is a 22-year Florida resident and has three children, Christopher (24), Matthew (21) and Ashley (20). Victoria was raised in Greenwich, Conn., and as a girl received lifesaving training from the local Greenwich Chapter of the American Red Cross; she was also an active blood donor. She graduated from Graduated Greenwich High 1971 and University of Connecticut 1980.

