

# STAFFER OF THE WEEK

April 11, 2002



## Cathy Travis

Communications Director & L.A.  
Congressman Solomon Ortiz (D-Texas)

### Why they were nominated:

*"Cathy deserves to be the Staffer of the Week because she's earned it. She knows the Hill well, she works hard, she puts in long hours -- and she still is able to maintain a very good personality that makes it pleasant for the people who work with her. And -- here's an extra -- she also just wrote a government book for young children."*

### Hometown:

Jonesboro, Arkansas.

### Education:

BS in Journalism, Arkansas State University ... and not that recently.

### What was your first political experience?

Pulling around a little red wagon at barbecues, filled with literature for our local congressman, Bill Alexander, who was a fraternity brother of my daddy's at the

University of Arkansas. I was asking people to vote for my "Uncle Bill."

**What is the first thing you'd do as a Member of Congress?**

I'd never run, so this is subjective. The first thing they all do is take an oath to uphold the Constitution. Congress is, after all, ARTICLE I.

**The BEST advice anyone ever gave me was ...**

"Believe in yourself."

**The WORST advice anyone ever gave me was ...**

"You can't do it -- forget about it."

**In my free time, I usually ...**

... I used to have free time. It's a real vague memory. If I had it again, I'd go lay on a beach to percolate the creative juices for the second book.

**The one TV show I always make time to watch is ...**

*CBS Sunday Morning.*

**Who is your favorite politician from the opposition party?**

Senator John McCain (R-AZ).

**If I was in Congress, my staff would get tired of me saying ...**

"Chop, chop!" (shorthand for "Hurry up, let's go!")

**Behind my back, people say ...**

... is she always like that?"

**Most people don't know that I ...**

... actually mean what I say (when they learn this, they usually stop asking: "Hey, what do you think about ....").

**If someone wanted to get on my good side ...**

... they would work hard, do what they say they'll do; it's pretty easy.

**My ultimate, fantasy "dream job" would be ...**

This is it. But I'm looking forward to a second career as an author -- it'd be far

more convenient to write during the daytime hours.

**I would push my way through a crowd to get into a picture with ...**

That's unseemly, I wouldn't push my way into a picture with anybody. But I'd most like to have supper with Nelson Mandela. He'd be fascinating.

**Pose one question to yourself we haven't asked ... and answer it:**

**Question:** "You wrote a book?"

**Answer:** "That's nice of you to ask. *Constitution Translated for Kids* is a line-by-line, section-by-section, simple translation of the entire United States Constitution, written at the 5th grade level. I'm amazed at the interest adults have had in it." [Editor's Note: Cathy's book is available in the online bookstore at [www.constitutionEZ.com](http://www.constitutionEZ.com).]

**[STAFFER OF THE WEEK ARCHIVES](#)**