Dr. Raymond Arsenault
John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History,
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice

Moore Hall Auditorium
Sunday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m.
Clifford Judkins Durr was born and raised in Montgomery and Virginia Heard Foster in Birmingham. He attended Montgomery schools and the University of Alabama and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. Virginia attended Birmingham schools and Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

They moved to Washington, D.C., in 1933 when Clifford was appointed legal counsel to the Reconstruction Finance Corp. He later served as counsel to the Defense Plant Corp. Their home on Seminary Hill was a center of lively political discussion with distinguished guests.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Clifford to the Federal Communications Commission, where he distinguished himself as a strong advocate for public television and was instrumental in obtaining for Alabama the first public educational channel. Virginia became active in the fight to eradicate the poll tax and was a founding member of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

While at the FCC, Clifford challenged J. Edgar Hoover by protecting the free speech rights of those with alleged communist connections, which included such innocent activities as belonging to wartime committees headed by Supreme Court justices and the vice president. Clifford refused reappointment to the FCC rather than implement a loyalty oath he believed violated the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Court later declared the loyalty oath to be unconstitutional, but Clifford’s career as a public servant was over.

The Durr family returned to Montgomery in the midst of the challenges and divisiveness of the civil rights struggle. One night E.D. Nixon called on Clifford and Virginia to come post bail for Virginia’s friend, Rosa Parks, who had refused to give up her bus seat. Later, Clifford loaned his legal expertise to a young lawyer, Fred Gray, in bringing lawsuits that successfully challenged discrimination in public accommodations and education. Despite their travails, Clifford and Virginia were devoted to Alabama and to their family and many friends here.
Sponsored by
The Durr Endowment Fund

Durr Lectures Committee
Dr. Peter Zachar  Dr. Jeffrey Elwell  Lyla Ridings  Timothy Spraggins  Ann Durr Lyon
Lucy Durr Hackney  Dr. Eric Sterling  Dr. Michael Fitzsimmons  Dr. Matthew Jordan  Dr. Aaron Cobb

The Durr Lectures Advisory Committee
Mike Briddell  Richard Cohen  Rev. Robert Graetz and Jeannie Graetz
Carolyn Hutcheson  Vera Jordan  Sam Kaufman  Nancy Lyon
Nelson Malden  Julian McPhillips  Jay Weiner

Specials Thanks to
Martin McCaffery and The Capri Theater
A specialist in the political, social, and environmental history of the American South, he has also taught at the University of Minnesota, Brandeis University, and at the Université d’Angers, in France, where he was a Fulbright Lecturer in 1984-85.

From 1980 to 1987, he was the co-director of the Fulbright Commission’s Summer Institute on American Studies at the University of Minnesota. He has also served as a consultant for numerous museums and public institutions --- including the National Park Service, the National Civil Rights Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum, and the United States Information Agency --- and he has lectured on American history and culture in a number of countries, including France, Great Britain, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Norway, Turkey, and Jordan.


Since 1996 Arsenault and USF history colleague Gary Mormino have served as the co-editors of the University Press of Florida’s highly acclaimed “Florida History and Culture” book series.

An active member of the Florida affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union since the early 1980s, he served two terms as state president (1998-2000) and received the Nelson Poynter Civil Liberties Award in 2003.
Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice
Presented by the Clifford J. and Virginia F. Durr Lectures and Auburn University at Montgomery

7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3

- Welcome – Dr. John Veres
- Master of Ceremonies – Dr. Jeffrey Elwell
- Durr Essay Contest Winners – Dr. Matthew Jordan
- Greetings from Durr Family – Ann Durr Lyon
- Introduction of Speaker – Dr. Sheldon Hackney
- Lecturer – Dr. Raymond Arsenault
- Questions and Answers
- Closing Remarks – Dr. Jeffrey Elwell
Auburn University at Montgomery is pleased to honor the memory of Clifford and Virginia Durr with the Durr Lecture Series on civil liberties. As the metropolitan campus of a land-grant university, AUM blends the traditional view of the university as a community of scholars with the contemporary view of the university as an integral part of the surrounding community, state and region. AUM’s mission is to foster and exemplify excellence in education through instruction, research and service to provide academic programs that are characteristic of the finest traditions of the liberal arts, business, sciences, nursing, and education. AUM encourages open and free inquiry and seeks to instill in its students ways of thinking, communicating, and learning that will be of enduring value.

Advance Magazine Group
Advertiser Company
Mrs. Laura C. Anderson
Anonymous #21
Mrs. Kelly Yeoman Arasmith
Mr. Jake F. Aronov
Balch & Bingham
Ms. Doris M. Barnette
Mr. Lewis Bateman
Ms. Gene Culver Beck ’62
Dr. Herman S. Belmont
Mr. Rickey D. Best
Ms. Diane Bishop
Ms. G K. Bishop
Ms. Grace Scott Bishop
Dr. Hugo Lafayette Black
Mr. Thomas A. Bobo
Mr. Stephen M. Brickley
Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Bridges
Dr. & Mrs. Jon Broadway
Mr. Donald A. Brown
Ms. Sarah H. Brown
Mr. Robert S. Brustein
Mr. & Mrs. James Buck
Mr. J. Mahlon Buck Jr.
Mr. William W. Campbell
Ms. Iris Capobianco
Dr. Dan T. Carter
Mr. & Mrs. H. Cauthen
Central Alabama Community Fdn.
Mr. & Mrs. John Chambless
Mr. Michael Chertoff
Mr. J. Calvin Chesnutt
Ms. Judith G. Churchill
Mr. Tommy Franklin Clement
CNN, Inc.
Dr. Richard V. Colan
Ms. Anne Colby
Mr. James E. Coleman
Compass Bank
Compass Bank of the South
Mrs. Elizabeth Folmar Cork
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Cotton
Ms. Sylvia L. Cotton
Mr. & Mrs. Major Winston Cox
Creekmore Fath Legal Study
Mrs. Lucy Black Creighton
Ms. Janet Crovatto
Mrs. Elizabeth Green Darity
Ms. Nancy M. Davis
Rev. & Mrs. Richard Deibert
Mrs. Hilda H. Dent
Dr. Alleen Deutsch
Mrs. Imogene F. Dillon
Dr. Dorothy M. DiOrio
Gen. & Mrs. James Drummond
Durr Fillauer Medical
Mrs. Frances S. Durr
Mr. John W. Durr
Mr. John W. Durr III
Mrs. Margaret E. Eaton
Ms. Leslie Elish
Mr. & Mrs. Coke Ellington
Mr. John Durr Elmore
Ms. Ruth C. Emerson
Ms. Edith C. Exton
Mr. Paul W. Fink
Dr. James Wayne Flynt
Mr. & Ms. Verner Forrister
Ms. Deborah H. Francis
Mrs. Blair R. Gaines
Ms. Catherine Galbraith
Ms. Margaret D. Garrison
Ms. Sylvia P. Gelblum
Mr. & Mrs. James Gilliland
Glad Tithings Foundation
Dr. Michelle R. Goodwyn
Mr. & Mrs. James Lucien Loeb
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Graetz
Dr. Victor Grann
Mr. Fred Gray
Mr. Harold Wayne Greenhaw
Ms. Mary B. Griswold
Dr. & Mrs. Sheldon Hackney
Ms. Nita G. Hagan
Ms. Anne H. Harbin
Mr. John D. Hawke Jr.
Mr. Arnoldo C. Hax
Hershey Entertainment & Resort Company
Ms. Sigrid A. Hess
Ms. Olga Hirshhorn
Hobbs Foundation
Dr. William C. Honey
Ms. Pamela S. Horowitz
Mr. Paul R. Hubbert
Mrs. William D. Hughes
Mrs. June Hutchinson
Ms. Rosalind Gersten Jacobs
Mrs. Linda R. Jenkins
Mr. Ray Jenkins
Mr. Wyatt T. Johnson
Mr. Vernon E. Jordan Jr.
Ms. Felicia Kaplan
Ms. Pamela Susan Karlan
Dr. & Mrs. Judd Katz
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Kaufman
Ms. Carolyn E. King
Ms. Doreen Kinsman
Mr. Theodore Kluz
Ms. Alice Knierim
Ms. Mary P. Laird
Ms. Ellen Lake
Mr. Corliss Lamont
Ms. Eleanor A. Lanahan
Mr. Thomas S. Lawson Jr.
Mrs. Linda L. Leahy
Ms. Sarah Griswold Leahy
Mr. John Paul Leofsky
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Levy
Ms. Julie E. Lewin
Mr. Herbert Finlay Lewis
Libby A Cater Agency
Ms. Eve Loeb
Loeb Family Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. James Lucien Loeb
Mr. Ralph Loeb Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lottman
Mr. Justus F. Lowe Jr.
Mrs. Ann Durr Lyon
M W Company
Mrs. Henrietta MacGuire
Ms. Rebecca Madrano
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Malden
Mr. Leon J. Martin
Mr. Anthony J. Maruca
Mr. George H. Mathews
Mr. George H.B. Mathews
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Mazyck
Ms. Margaret McCall
Mr. & Ms. R. McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Charles McInnish
Mrs. Dorothy A. McKinney
Hon. Vanzetta Penn McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Julian McPhillips
McPhillips Shinbaum & Gill
Ms. Margaret Meier
Ms. Margaret E. Meier
Ms. Ellen Leslie Mertins
Dr. and Mrs. Brad Moody
Mrs. Bonnie B. Moore
Ms. Dorothy J. Moore
Mrs. Ada Kate Morgan
Mr. Charles Morgan Jr.
Mr. Luther T. Munford
Mr. Philip T. Murkett
Dr. William V. Muse
Ms. Peggy Mussafer
Dr. Guin A. Nance
Lt. Col. John H. Napier III
Dr. James A. Nathan
Mrs. Algie H. Neill
Mrs. Nan Neth
Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Albert Nolte
Mrs. Pamela Denise Norris
Ms. Salina K. O’Brian
Ms. Willierean Crosby O’Rourke
Mr. Arthur S. Osgoode
Ms. Anne D. Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pate
Ms. Catherine A. Patterson
Mr. Edward Pattillo
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Peak
Mrs. Deborah Pendleton
Mrs. Deborah Digges Pendleton
Ms. Alice W. Persons
Mr. Martin H. Pesaresi
Mr. C. Redding Pitt
Mr. Louis Pollak
Ms. Lia G. Poorvu
Mrs. Mary Evelyn Quisenberry
Mr. William T. Ramsey Jr.
Mrs. Mary Lee Reade
Mrs. Phyllis Dondis Ribakoff
Dr. & Mrs. Roger Ritvo
Rockefeller Financial Services Inc.
Mrs. Caroline Buck Rogers
Mr. Jimmie L. Sabel
Mrs. Rita H. Sabel
Dr. Roy H. Saigo
Mr. L. M. Sanders
Ms. Beatrice K. Schneiderman
Mr. Peter Seeger
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Segall
Ms. Isabell C. Shattuck
Mrs. Anita M. Sherman
Mrs. Rose M. Shook
Dr. Patrick D. Slattery
Southern Poverty Law Center
Ms. Rosalie Sporn
Mr. Armstrong A. Stambaugh Jr.
Mrs. Mary Lee Stapp
Mr. William T. Stephens
Mr. Donald M. Stewart
Ms. Micki Beth Stiller
Mr. John S. Stout
Mr. James Porter Straus
Mrs. Rose B. Styron
Mrs. Frances C. Sutton
Mr. & Ms. J. Mills Thornton
Ms. Kathryn W. Toll
Trotman Cattle Company
Mr. John M. Trotman Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. James Arnold Tucker
Judge John C. Tyson III
Unitarian Universalist
Mr. Leslie L. Vivian Jr.
Dr. Thomas J. Vocino
Mrs. Betsy Von Furstenberg
Mr. John T. Wagnon Jr.
Ms. Tomar S. Waldman
Mr. Mike Wallace
Mr. Luther H. Waller Jr.
Mrs. Carolyn C. Ware
Mr. John H. Ware Jr.
Mrs. Patricia A. Waters
Mr. & Mrs. Kendal Weaver
Mrs. Mary B. Weidler
Weil Brothers Cotton Inc.
Mrs. Jean Ruth Weil
Dr. Laurie Jean Weil
Mr. Robert S. Weil II
Mr. Jay L. Wiener
Mrs. Essie C. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Morrison Williams
Ms. Zecozy Williams
Dr. John H. Winston
Mrs. Carol J. Woodcock
Dr. Nancy Carpenter Woodman
Mr. & Mrs. John Yung