

**Remarks by Congressman G. K. Butterfield
Presenting The Media Institute's
2020 Freedom of Speech Award
To Mignon Clyburn
October 14, 2020**

I can't think of a higher honor than for me to introduce one of the recipients of The Media Institute Freedom of Speech Award. I also recognize and salute the other recipients.

Mignon Clyburn is a friend; a close family friend.

The Mignon story begins deep in the institution of slavery rooted in the low country of South Carolina.

Mrs. Emily England, Mignon's mother, was a South Carolina legend. She was the product of the historic England family of Monks Corner, S.C., who were descendants of South Carolina slaves.

Congressman James Enos Clyburn, Mignon's father, is the product of the historic Clyburn family of Sumter, S.C., who were descendants of South Carolina slaves.

Jim and Emily (who passed last year after an historic battle with multiple health conditions) married soon after college and they produced three wonderful daughters. Mignon is the eldest. The Clyburn family is one of the closest-knit families I have ever met. They love each other and they love humanity.

Mignon Clyburn

Mignon was born in 1962, during the height of the Civil Rights movement to which her parents were integrally involved.

Mignon Clyburn graduated from W. J. Keenan High School in 1980 and earned a B.S. in banking, finance, and economics from the University of South Carolina in 1984.

From 1984 to 1998, Ms. Clyburn served as publisher, editor, and general manager of the Charleston, South Carolina-based *The Coastal Times*, a weekly African-American newspaper.

From 1998 to 2009, Mignon Clyburn was a member of the South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC), representing South Carolina's 6th congressional district. She was first elected to the post on July 1, 1998 and served as the chair of the Commission from July 2002 to July 2004.

Tenure on the FCC

In April 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Mignon Clyburn to a vacant Democratic seat on the Federal Communications Commission. Mignon initially was appointed to serve the unexpired term of Jonathan Adelstein, who left the Commission to take up a post in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In July 2009, Mignon was confirmed to a full five-year term; her appointment was unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

Mignon Clyburn began a second five-year term on the FCC in January 2013, having been nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate.

In May 2013, President Obama designated Commissioner Clyburn as acting chairwoman of the FCC, a position she held until her successor was sworn into office.

Mignon is a principal at MLC Strategies, a D.C.-based firm. And she serves on the Board of Directors for Lionsgate, a well-respected media production company.

Again, thank you for recognizing my friend, The Honorable Mignon Clyburn.