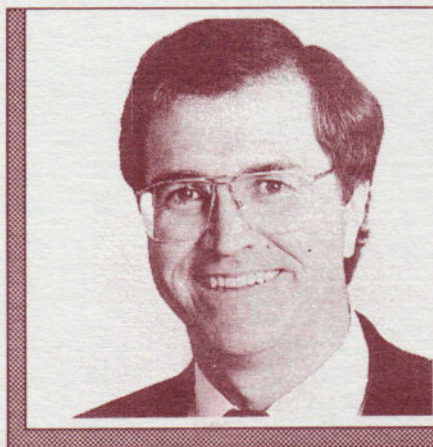


Auburn University at Montgomery  
*Inaugural*  
**Clifford J. Durr  
Lecture**

*presents*



Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson



Mr. Tom Johnson  
President, CNN

**“The Heroes Among Us”**

Sunday, March 1, 1992  
7:30 p.m.  
School of Nursing Auditorium

*Free and open to the public*

A series of lectures at Auburn University at Montgomery by nationally recognized speakers on issues in the constitutional protection of civil liberties



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## Clifford Judkins Durr—1899-1975

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Clifford J. Durr was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and educated at Miss Woodruff's Academy and Starke Military School in Montgomery, and The University of Alabama.

A Rhodes Scholar at Queen's College, Oxford, from 1920 to 1922, he earned two law degrees and returned to Montgomery to enter law practice. In 1924, he joined a prestigious Birmingham law firm, where he was made a partner and legal counsel to Alabama Power Company.

In 1925, he married Virginia Heard Foster, and they became the parents of four daughters.

In 1933, Clifford Durr joined the new Reconstruction Finance Corporation, specializing in bank refinancing, and from 1933 to 1950 he lived in Washington, D.C., where he and Virginia developed friendships with many of the important members of the New Deal, including his brother-in-law, Hugo Black, and Lyndon Johnson.

President Roosevelt appointed Mr. Durr Chief Counsel and Director of the new Defense Plant Corporation in 1940. In this position, he established the legal and philosophical structure for hundreds of millions of dollars spent to construct and lease defense plants and stockpile critical material.

In 1941, Durr received a presidential appointment to the new Federal Communications Commission. He distinguished himself as a strong advocate for an independent broadcasting industry, the preservation of educational channels, and broadcasting in the public service. He was instrumental in obtaining for Alabama the first public education channel. When he retired, an article in *Newsweek* offered this comment: "Few there were who appreciated his clarity of vision."

Clifford Durr was one of very few who opposed the excesses of the anti-Communist investigations that swept the country in the late 1940s and 1950s. In 1948, he refused reappointment to the FCC rather than implement a loyalty oath which violated every belief he held in the rights protected by the first amendment to the Constitution, an oath the Supreme Court later declared unconstitutional.

He returned to his native Montgomery and began a law practice that was marked by an unflinching belief in the dignity of all persons and the protection of their civil liberties. During the Civil Rights movement, Durr continued to lend legal expertise wherever he felt basic civil liberties were being violated.

Clifford Durr retired in 1968 to his grandfather's farm in Pea Level, Alabama; however, he continued to lecture frequently at universities in England and the United States until his death in 1975.

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## Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson

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Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson was born Claudia Alta Taylor in Karnack, Texas. At an early age she became known to her family and friends as "Lady Bird." She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas with a major in history in 1933 and in journalism in 1934. She has been awarded eight honorary degrees. Today she spends a good deal of time supporting the activities of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs on the University of Texas campus.

Mrs. Johnson is the author of *A White House Diary*, a record of her activities during the years her husband served as President of the United States. She is co-author of *Wildflowers Across America*. Mrs. Johnson has been an active worker on numerous environmental projects for many years. She is the recipient of many awards for her extensive humanitarian, business and professional, and conservation contributions.

On December 22, 1982 (her seventieth birthday), Mrs. Johnson created the National Wildflower Research Center near Austin. She currently serves as Co-chairman of the Center with Helen Hayes MacArthur. It is her ardent desire that the secrets of wildflowers be unlocked so that they can be successfully preserved, propagated, and recognized as a significant part of our nation's natural heritage.



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## W. Thomas Johnson

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Tom Johnson, President, Cable News Network (CNN), has achieved distinction in a 27-year career in print and broadcast media in addition to his earlier service in the White House. After selection as a prestigious White House Fellow, he became Executive Assistant to former President Lyndon B. Johnson. He then held president and publisher positions with *The Dallas Times Herald*, *Los Angeles Times*, and Times Mirror Company before his appointment to CNN.

Mr. Johnson's honors include Cable Executive of the Year, Horatio Alger Distinguished American Award, U. S. Publisher of the Year, and President of the White House Fellows Association. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Journalism and Harvard University Graduate School of Business.

Mr. Johnson's professional appointments include Chairman, Board of Directors, Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation; Chairman, John S. Knight Professional Journalism Fellowships Board, Stanford University; and member, Board of Trustees, The Rockefeller Foundation, the University of Georgia Foundation, and Wesleyan College.

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### Program

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#### Greetings

**Dr. James O. Williams**

*Chancellor*

*Auburn University at Montgomery*

#### Introductions

**Mr. Douglas Cater**

*Distinguished Lecturer*

*Auburn University at Montgomery*

#### "Reminiscences"

**Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson**

#### "Clifford J. Durr: The Attorney"

**Mr. Fred Gray**

*Attorney at Law*

#### "The Heroes Among Us"

**Mr. Tom Johnson**

*President, CNN*

#### Questions and Answers

#### Closing Remarks

**Chancellor Williams**

## Auburn University at Montgomery

Auburn University at Montgomery was established by the Alabama Legislature in 1967 to provide greater opportunity for higher education in central Alabama.

In 1971, AUM moved to its present 500-acre campus in east Montgomery, and in 1973 was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a degree granting institution operationally distinct from Auburn University in Auburn.

AUM's enrollment has grown to almost 6,700 students in five schools—Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Sciences—offering nineteen undergraduate and nine graduate degrees.



# The Clifford J. Durr Lecture Series

*sponsored by*

**Auburn University at Montgomery  
Department of Psychology**

*and*

**Division of Continuing Education**

Auburn University at Montgomery is proud to inaugurate a spring lecture series honoring Clifford Judkins Durr and featuring nationally known speakers on issues in the constitutional protection of civil liberties.

During a long and illustrious career as a legal counsel to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and Defense Plant Corporation, as one of the first commissioners on the Federal Communications Commission, and as a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and Montgomery, Clifford Durr was a courageous and effective advocate of civil liberties, particularly freedom of speech and association, the rights guaranteed in the first amendment. He believed that these rights transcended all transitory concerns and that the body politic was made stronger, not weaker, by their exercise.

In a speech to the Associated Church Press in 1947, Durr stated:

Democratic government is based upon faith in people—in their innate intelligence and decency—upon a belief in their ability to shape out a good destiny for themselves between the hammer and anvil of conflicting ideas, provided they are given full freedom to know and to discuss, to associate and to exchange their views one with another, and to protest when the occasion arises. This was the gamble which the founders of our government made with destiny. It was not the gamble of fearful men. It will not be won by fearful men.

Clifford Durr was Jeffersonian in his courage and dedication to the protection of civil liberties for all persons. In his view, "the danger to our liberties lies not in evil men, for they are few"; rather, it lies "with the normally decent men" who are silent when they ought to say, "These things which are being done are wrong, and I will stand against them."

The Department of Psychology in the School of Sciences and the Division of Continuing Education at Auburn University at Montgomery are proud to dedicate a lecture series to these principles.

## Coordinating Committee

*Dr. Alleen Deutsch*

*Dr. Allen K. Hess*

*Dr. William C. Honey*

*Dr. Nancy C. Woodman*

**For further information about the Durr Endowment, contributions, or activities, contact Dr. Nancy C. Woodman, Director, Institutional Advancement, Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery, AL 36117-3596 at (205) 244-3369.**