



GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2007

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Galveston's Carolyn Clyburn Named GHF's 2007 Steel Oleander Award Recipient

Entrepreneur, educator and civic leader Carolyn Smith Clyburn has been selected by Galveston Historical Foundation as its 2007 "Steel Oleander" recipient. Clyburn will be honored for her many contributions to the community with a luncheon sponsored by Galveston Historical Foundation April 26 at the 1880 Garten Verein Pavilion, 2704 Avenue O in Galveston. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. and is open to the public. Tickets cost \$45 each. To make reservations, call 409-762-3933.

The Steel Oleander Award, established in 1994, salutes outstanding Galveston women whose community service reflects the ideals and independent spirit of Ashton Villa's Bettie Brown. Past recipients include Alfreda Houston, Jan Coggeshall, Barbara Crews, Lynn Cantini, Janice Stanton, Dr. Sally Robinson, Maureen Patton, Ruth Kempner, Marilyn Schwartz, Sally Wallace, Evangeline Whorton, Nonie Thompson, and Izola Collins.

Frost Bank is the major sponsor for this year's event. Stewart Title is a sponsor of the event as well.

Clyburn has been a resident of Galveston since she was a young girl. Her family moved to Galveston from Montgomery, Alabama, during the 1940s, when her father, William H. Smith, became president of Galveston's Moody Compress.

After graduating from Ball High School in Galveston and attending Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, Clyburn graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Elementary Education.

She married Galvestonian Jan Winson Brown and they had two daughters. The daughters and sons-in-law, Edie and Kevin Harrington and Julie and Marc Cuenod, as well as her two grandchildren, Alex Jan Harrington and Kevin William Harrington, are active in community service. After Brown's death, Clyburn worked at Galveston College and continued her active participation in Galveston's civic organizations.

Her husband, John H. Clyburn, who teaches history at Galveston College, shares her passion for historic preservation, volunteerism and civic leadership. They both contribute a great deal of their time and energy as volunteer leaders on local projects.

Clyburn, at the request of the GISD, served on a "special team" when Central Middle School was converted into the all-eighth-grade school. She accepted the position of community volunteer coordinator at Central from 1976 to 1980. After the grant that funded the position expired, she became a realtor.

In 1987, she and a partner bought The House Company. The partner eventually phased out and Carolyn has been president since 1987. She is a past president of the Galveston Association of Realtors and serves on the Certified Real Estate Broker State Board. She is a trustee for Region 10 Texas Real Estate Political Action Committee and is past director of the Texas Association of Realtors.

Her advanced education and national designations include: GRI (Graduate Real Estate Institute), CRS (Certified Residential Specialist), CRB (Certified Real Estate Broker) and e-PRO (Graduate Internet Technology).

Her contributions through leadership roles and volunteer service exemplify Clyburn's dedication to the community. She served as president of Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) for 18 months, has chaired many committees over the years, and has received the prestigious Spirit of GHF award. During her tenure as president, the Garten Verein Pavilion opened after its latest restoration, and Galveston's 1861 U.S. Custom House was restored and opened as GHF's headquarters.

Clyburn was the second woman to chair the Galveston Chamber of Commerce Board. Under her leadership, the chamber mounted a successful effort to have sales tax money designated to begin beach renourishment. She also led the effort to form the Chamber's Golden Division and helped spearhead the organization of an active Winter Texan group for Galveston.

In 1970, Clyburn was president of the Junior League of Galveston County, Inc., when its members restored the Trueheart-Adriance Building and the First National Bank Building, events that stimulated the restoration of The Strand. She also chaired various committees and received the Sustainer of the Year award from the Junior League.

At Trinity Episcopal Church she was the first woman senior warden. Clyburn is very active in chairing and serving on committees for both the church and its school.

She is a past board member of the Rotary Club of Galveston and the Galveston Island Arts Academy, United Way of Galveston and the Salvation Army. She currently serves on the boards of the 1894 Grand Opera House, UTMB's Galveston National Lab Community Advisory Board, Frost Bank's Board of Advisors, and the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church. She is a member of Clean Galveston, UTMB's President's Cabinet, the Historic Downtown Galveston Partnership and the Galveston Economic Development Partnership.

Clyburn, recognized for her distinguished record of service to her profession, contributions to numerous community organizations and her long-standing involvement in civic and humanitarian activities, is always quick to share recognition with others.

For tickets to the Steel Oleander luncheon, at \$45 each, call 409-762-3933.

Photos available upon request