



The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is pleased to present the recipients of its 2015 Living Legacy Awards. These distinguished men, women, organizations and institutions are recognized for their extraordinary work to improve African American life, history and culture. The Living Legacy Award was created in 2012, with co-sponsor Farmers Insurance, in homage to the Black History Month theme of that year and has been bestowed to over fifty recipients.



Academia – Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem is the Founder of the Council of Opportunity in Education (COE) and currently serves as President Emeritus for the organization. He has spent his entire career advocating for equal access to post-secondary education and the success of students in the United States which he views as an extension of the Civil Rights Movement. He is responsible for marshalling minority leadership for college access issues and is the founder of the concept of “first-generation” students. This concept was adopted in the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act of 1980. Mitchem is a leading advocate for the federally funded TRIO programs (the largest and oldest out-of-school institutional programs) that assist low-income and first-generation learners, students with disabilities, adult learners, and veterans with overcoming financial, social, and cultural barriers to education. These programs have helped 3.4 million students prepare for, get into, and succeed in post-secondary education. Past recipients include: actresses Angela Bassett and Viola Davis, political

strategist Donna Brazille, astronauts Bernard Harris and Jose Hernandez, Congresswoman Gwendolynne Moore, and TV personalities John Quinones and Oprah Winfrey.

Before coming to COE, Mitchem served as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette University. He has years of experience providing Congressional testimony on issues such as education regulations, non-profit institutions, and the Higher Education Act, as well as delivering keynote and commencement speeches on the importance of education.

Mitchem received a B.A. in History and Education from the University of Southern Colorado and earned a Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Education from Marquette University. He has received honorary doctoral degrees from nine American universities and is the only American to receive an honorary degree from the University of Liverpool. He is the recipient of several leadership and service awards for his contribution and commitment to educational opportunities for under-served students, and he has a fellowship named after him at DePaul University.

Mitchem has served on the Board and Executive Committees of many universities and organizations including the Board of Trustees of Marquette University, the advisory panel of the Louisiana Board of Regents, the advisory board of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Community College Transfer Initiative, and the executive committee of the European Access Network.



Arts, Entertainment and Humanities – Mr. Reginald Van Lee is an Executive Vice President at Booz Allen Hamilton’s Washington D.C. location, where he leads the firm’s Global Commercial business, with emphasis on the energy, financial services and healthcare industries. For 30 years, he has helped numerous private and public organizations transform to better achieve their missions and assisted in driving growth in not-for-profit organizations.

Van Lee has co-authored a number of articles on the topic of strategy implementation. These articles have appeared in publications such as *The Journal of Business Strategy and Business Horizons*. He is the co-author of the book, *Megacommunities: How Leaders of Government, Business and Non-Profits Can Tackle Today’s Global Challenges Together*. He has appeared on ABC-TV’s “World News This Morning” and CNBC, and co-led the Urban Enterprise Initiative with the William Jefferson Clinton

Foundation, which focused on driving enhanced competitiveness of small businesses in Harlem. He is a founding member of the Clinton Global Initiative.

Van Lee always served on the boards of charitable, philanthropic and professional organizations. He serves as Chairman of the board of the Washington Performing Arts Society, Chairman of the board of the National CARES Mentoring Movement and Chairman Emeritus of the board of the Evidence, A Dance Company. He was appointed by President Obama to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He is a Trustee of the board for Studio Museum in Harlem and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also a member of the Executive Leadership Council and sits on the board of The Washington Ballet and the MAC AIDS Fund. He is Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Howard Theatre Restoration, Inc. (HTR), the nonprofit organization that led the collaborative effort with the District of Columbia and other private entities to bring the life, music, and people back to The Howard Theatre, a national landmark of the African American Entertainment Experience, in the form of Gospel, Jazz, R&B, Hip Hop, and Classical music.

Van Lee holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School as well as M.S. and B.S. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Business – Mr. Myron A. Gray is President of U.S. Operations for United Parcel Service (UPS) with responsibility for all package delivery and logistics services. In the United States, UPS delivers and picks up more than 15 million packages each day and employs over 322,000 individuals. In 2010, Gray led a strategic transformation of the company's U.S. small package business. He also has presided over programs to expand the company's logistics services, upgrade the technology in UPS operations, and improve the delivery fleet's fuel efficiency. Gray is a member of UPS's Management Committee, the group of senior executives responsible for the day-to-day management of the company.

Prior to his current role, Gray served as the President of the Americas Region, covering Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. In this role, he led the expansion of UPS express delivery and logistics services into growing markets such as Mexico and Brazil.

Gray began his career with UPS in 1978 as a part-time package handler in the Tennessee District while attending college. He holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Memphis and has completed advanced management programs at INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France and the Yale University School of Business.

Gray currently serves on the National Board of Governors and as Trustee Chairman of the Southeast Region for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. He also sits on the boards of The Atlanta Police Foundation, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and the National Urban League.



Community Service – Rev. Dr. Jonathan L. Weaver, a native Marylander, has served as pastor of Greater Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church since April 1988. Under Weaver's spiritual guidance and servant leadership, the Greater Mt. Nebo family has increased from 60 members to more than 1,600 parishioners, and has approximately 50 ministries that serve the church and the greater community. Pastor Weaver spearheaded Greater Mt. Nebo's purchase of 90 acres of land and the building of their current house of worship, with plans underway for the construction of a Family Life Wellness Intergenerational Center and senior housing on their property.

His sense of community transcends the borders of Prince George's County, Md. and the United States. Weaver has led numerous mission trips to Africa since 1992 and most recently to Rwanda and The Democratic Republic of the Congo, where hundreds of genocide and rape survivors have received medical care and other forms of assistance from church volunteers. He has preached and lectured in over twenty countries in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Weaver is the Founding President of The Collective Empowerment Group (The CEG), and currently serves as its National President. The CEG, formerly known as The Collective Banking Group, is an ecumenical association composed of nearly five hundred churches in several cities across America, engaged in economic empowerment initiatives through partnerships with banks and other



businesses in their communities. He is also the Founder and President of The Pan African Collective, Inc., a national faith-based organization promoting human empowerment within the African Diaspora. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Industrial Bank, Inc., one of the oldest black-owned banks in America, and a board member of the Second District Religious, Educational and Charitable Development Projects, an A.M.E Church organization which engages in programs and projects for spiritual, educational, social and economic growth.

Weaver is a graduate of St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md.; earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University School of Business. He is a recipient of numerous awards for his community and global service.



Government Service – Mr. Robert G. Stanton was appointed by President Barack Obama in October 2014 to a four-year term on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. From 2009-2014, Stanton served as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior where he led efforts honoring historic milestones including the dedication of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial and the dedication of the Colonel Charles Young's historic home as a national monument. He also provided leadership in improving the engagement of youth and diverse citizens in Department of Interior programs.

Stanton spent 35 years with the National Park Service (NPS) and was the first African American to serve as the agency's director, an appointment made by President Bill Clinton. As NPS Director from 1997-2001, he was responsible for the 83 million acre National Park System and managed a workforce of 20,000 employees and an annual budget of \$ 2.3 billion. Stanton developed several new programs and

park areas commemorating the legacies of African Americans. He oversaw the congressionally authorized Special Resource Studies for the Carter G. Woodson Home, Birthplace and Home of Harriet Tubman, the Gullah/Geechee Culture and the establishment of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, as well as new park areas including the Little Rock Central High School and the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Sites.

Since beginning his career as a seasonal national park ranger in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, Stanton has dedicated his life's work to improving the preservation and management of the nation's rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage. This included his earlier work on the establishment of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial and the Bethune Council House National Historic Site and the development of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site.

Active in professional and civic affairs, he is a co-founder of the African American Experience Fund (AAEF) of the National Park Foundation and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Stanton has served as a visiting professor at Yale University, Howard University and Texas A&M University, and as a conservation consultant. He is a graduate of Huston-Tillotson University and has been awarded five honorary doctoral degrees. His national awards are numerous and include the National Council of Negro Women's Distinguished Service Award, Ford Theatre Society's Lincoln Medal, the Student Conservation Association Founder's Award, the National Park Foundation's Charles Young Diversity Recognition Award, and the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award.



Organizations and Institutions – The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States.

Mr. Kellogg originally defined the foundation's purpose as "administering funds for the promotion of the welfare, comfort, health, education, feeding, clothing, sheltering and safeguarding of children and youth, directly or indirectly, without regard to sex, race, creed or nationality." To guide current and future trustees and staff, he said, "Use the money as you please so long as it promotes the health, happiness and well-being of

children.” Over the years, WKKF lives up to this mandate, continuing to evolve and striving to remain innovative and responsive to the ever-changing needs of society.

Today, building upon Mr. Kellogg’s values and legacy, the foundation is guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive and works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

WKKF places the optimal development of children at the center of all it does and calls for healing the profound racial inequities that exist in our communities. To achieve this, WKKF’s work and investments are organized in several goal areas: *Educated Kids*, *Healthy Kids* and *Secure Families*. Within and around each goal are commitments to *Community Engagement*, *Racial Equity* and *Leadership* because each is essential for communities to create the conditions under which all children can thrive.

As an organization, the foundation is deeply committed to racial equity, diversity and inclusion with intentional internal and external efforts. In 2007, the WKKF Board of Trustees committed the foundation to being “an effective anti-racist organization that promotes racial equity.” This is best exemplified in 2010 when the foundation made history with its largest single initiative investment – America Healing – a bold \$75 million effort to support and empower communities in their efforts to dismantle the structures that limit opportunities for vulnerable children. The effort is bringing racial healing to divided communities across the nation, breathing life back into efforts to abolish structural racism and helping America achieve strength and prosperity through racial equity.

Learn more about the foundation and its work at wkkf.org.



Politics – The Honorable James E. Clyburn is the Assistant Democratic Leader of the 114th Congress and the number three Democrat in the House of Representatives, serving South Carolina’s 6th Congressional District. He is the leadership liaison to the Appropriations Committee and one of the Democratic Caucus’ primary liaisons to the White House. Working with the internal caucuses, he plays a prominent role in messaging and outreach.

His humble beginnings in Sumter, South Carolina as the eldest son of an activist fundamentalist minister and an independent civic minded beautician, grounded him securely in family, faith and public service. He was elected president of his NAACP youth chapter when he was 12 years old, helped organize many civil rights marches and demonstrations as a student leader at South Carolina State College, and met his wife Emily while in jail during one of his incarcerations.

When Clyburn came to Congress in 1993, he was elected Co-President of his Freshman class and quickly rose through the leadership ranks. He was elected Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1999, and his reputation as a leader and consensus-builder helped him win a difficult three-way race for House Democratic Caucus Vice-Chair in 2002. Three years later, he was unanimously elected Chair of the Democratic Caucus. When Democrats regained the House majority in 2006, Congressman Clyburn was elevated by his colleagues to House Majority Whip.

As a national leader, Clyburn has worked untiringly to respond to the needs of America’s diverse communities. He championed rural communities by supporting the development of regional water projects, community health centers, and broadband connections. He has supported higher education by leading the charge for increased Pell grants; investing millions in science and math programs and historic preservation at historically Black Colleges and Universities. For the past 30 years, he has encouraged economic development by securing funding for Empowerment Zones; investing in green technology development such as nuclear, wind, hydrogen and biofuels; and directing 10 percent of Recovery Act funding to communities 20 percent under the poverty level. Clyburn was instrumental in advancing into law measures to resolve historic discrimination issues, significantly reducing the statutory disparity in cocaine sentencing, and compensating African and Native American farmers who suffered racial discrimination under the USDA loan program.