

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Clarence Mitchell, III

PERSON

Mitchell, Clarence, III, 1939-2012

Alternative Names: The Honorable Clarence Mitchell, III;

Life Dates: December 14, 1939-October 10, 2012

Place of Birth: St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

Residence: Baltimore, MD

Occupations: State Senator

Biographical Note

Former state Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on December 14, 1939. A member of the illustrious Mitchell family of Baltimore, Mitchell grew up in Baltimore, attending the city's public schools. After graduating from Gonzaga High School, Mitchell attended the University of Maryland and Morgan State University, earning his J.D. degree from the University of Baltimore Law School.

Coming from a family well known for their commitment to advocacy, Mitchell was a cofounder of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960; he also worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1963, Mitchell was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served until 1967; that year, he became the youngest person to serve in the Maryland State Senate. Mitchell remained in the Maryland Senate for nearly two decades, finally stepping down in 1986. While in the State Senate, Mitchell served as the deputy majority leader; the majority whip; the chairman of the executive nominations committee; the co-chair of the joint committee on federal relations; and was a member of the judicial proceedings committee. Mitchell also served as the president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators from 1979 to 1981.

During his time in office, Mitchell was involved in a number of legislative achievements, including the creation of the Maryland Office of Minority Business Enterprise, and Maryland's first Fair Employment Bill, which he sponsored. Mitchell served as a special advisor to Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and Vice President Hubert Humphrey; he also served as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1964, 1968, 1976, 1980 and 1984.

Mitchell went on to become the president and CEO of Vanguard, Inc., an international government affairs, public relations, and business development consulting company; he also co-founded and served as chairman of the Center for the Study of Harassment of African Americans.

Hon. Clarence Mitchell passed away on October 10, 2012.

Related Entries

Gonzaga High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Henry Highland Garnet Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Morgan State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Maryland [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Maryland General Assembly [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1963 to 1967]

State Representative

Maryland General Assembly [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1967 to 1986]

State Senator

Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from 1960 to 1962]

Treasurer

National Black Caucus of State Legislators [MEMBEROF]
[from 1979 to ?]

President