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Blessed Experiences Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black

By James E. Clyburn

University of South Carolina Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 376 pages. From his humble beginnings in Sumter, South Carolina, to his prominence on the Washington, D. C. , political scene as the third highest ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives, U. S. Congressman James E. Clyburn has led an extraordinary life. In *Blessed Experiences*, Clyburn tells in his own inspirational words how an African American boy from the Jim Crow-era South was able to beat the odds to achieve great success and become, as President Barack Obama describes him, one of a handful of people who, when they speak, the entire Congress listens. Born in 1940 to a civic-minded beautician and a fundamentalist minister, Clyburn began his ascent to leadership at the age of twelve when he was elected president of his National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) youth chapter. He broke barriers through peaceful protests and steadfast beliefs in equality and justice. Of his success Clyburn says he was blessed with nurturing parents, a supportive family and loyal friends. But, he added, my life was not just about knocking down doors and lowering barriers. I spent some time marching in the streets and occupying the inside...



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