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U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to Speak at Chapman Dec. 17

Second Visit to Chapman by the Justice, Who Helped Open Kennedy Hall, Home of the Chapman School of Law, in 1999

Justice Thomas Will Speak About and Sign His New Bestselling Memoir, My Grandfather's Son

ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 20, 2007 Clarence Thomas, associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, will make a return visit to Chapman University on Monday, Dec. 17 to speak about and sign his new memoir, My Grandfather's Son. Chapman is the final stop and the only university in the nation that Justice Thomas is scheduled to visit on his book tour, which otherwise has included appearances before downtown audiences in major cities.

The lecture, which is presented by the Heritage Foundation, will begin at 6 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the Chapman campus in Orange, with the book-signing immediately following. Admission is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required through the Heritage Foundation’s website, www.myheritage.org. Check-in and seating for pre-registered audience members will begin at 4:30 p.m. on the day of the lecture.

Justice Thomas previously visited the Chapman campus in 1999 to participate in the opening of Donald P. Kennedy Hall, home of the Chapman University School of Law. John Eastman, the current dean of the Chapman School of Law, clerked for Justice Thomas at the U.S. Supreme Court.

From the book description by publisher HarperCollins: Provocative, inspiring, and unflinchingly honest, My Grandfather's Son is the story of one of America's most remarkable and controversial leaders, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, told in his own words.

Thomas was born in rural Georgia on June 23, 1948, into a life marked by poverty and hunger. His parents divorced when Thomas was still a baby, and his father moved north to Philadelphia, leaving his young mother to raise him and his brother and sister on the ten dollars a week she earned as a maid. At age seven, Thomas and his six-year-old brother were sent to live with his mother's father, Myers Anderson, and her stepmother in their Savannah home. It was a move that would forever change Thomas's life.

His grandfather, whom he called Daddy, was a black man with a strict work ethic, trying to raise a family in the years of Jim Crow. Thomas witnessed his grandparents' steadfastness despite injustices, their hopefulness despite bigotry, and their deep love for their country. His own quiet ambition would propel him to Holy Cross and Yale Law School, and eventually despite a bitter, highly contested public confirmation to the highest court in the land. In this candid and deeply
moving memoir, a quintessential American tale of hardship and grit, Clarence Thomas recounts his astonishing journey for the first time, and pays homage to the man who made it possible.

Intimately and eloquently, Thomas speaks out, revealing the pieces of his life he holds dear, detailing the suffering and injustices he has overcome, including the acrimonious and polarizing Senate confirmation hearing and the depression and despair it created in his own life and the lives of those closest to him. *My Grandfather's Son* is the story of a determined man whose faith, courage, and perseverance inspired him to rise up against all odds and achieve his dreams.