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**UAC to Present 2008 Kinship Award to Nick and Nina Clooney**

**At National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on May 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Urban Appalachian Council's 2008 Kinship honorees are Nina and Nick Clooney. The decision by the Selection Committee to name a couple rather than an individual this year was well considered as both Nina and Nick Clooney's lives exhibit those values that Appalachians hold dear: self reliance, love of family, loyalty and social equality.

From Nick Clooney's earliest days in local television, through his years as WKRC-TV's managing editor to his more recent columns in the Kentucky Post, he has been supported by his wife, Nina, who has brought grace and intelligence as well as a truly Appalachian ingenuity and determination to everything she does. Nina Clooney has a long list of professional credits in television—writing, hosting and production—not a surprise for a woman who thinks doing many things at once is normal. In describing her life she noted she and her husband Nick have “racked up enough frequent flyer miles to keep them in the air for the next twenty years while traveling for work, pleasure, and family events.”

Nina and Nick Clooney's love of family are demonstrated in words and actions with their children (Ada and George) and their grandchildren (Allison and Nick). As a family whose members have been in the public eye for decades some of their family moments are recorded in

print or broadcast form. Nick Clooney's memorial to his sister Rosemary is one of these: his clear and compelling words on that occasion demonstrate the importance of family.

Nick's recent visits to and advocacy for Darfur, with his son George, demonstrate his clear commitment to the wider 'family of man' as well as to social equality and justice. While George has recently been named a special ambassador for peace at the United Nations, Nick has spoken at more than 75 schools, churches, and town meetings about this issue. The documentary that was made on their trip "Journey to Darfur" was shown at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center where the May 19, 2008 Kinship Event will be held.

Nick Clooney has worked all his life as a reporter. He was only 17 when he started at his hometown radio station in Maysville, Kentucky. Since then his experiences have been wide and varied. He has been a reporter, anchor, managing editor and news director in Lexington, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Buffalo and Los Angeles. In addition he wrote regular weekly columns for the Cincinnati and Kentucky Post, is the author of three books and has been speaker, master of ceremonies, or panelist at more than 3000 events coast to coast. He has been recognized locally and nationally, with honorary doctorates, induction into Television and Journalism Halls of Fame, Emmy nominations and awards, and other honors. Nina, in addition to her work in media, has rehabbed three houses, run an antique store for ten years, served on the Augusta, Kentucky City Council and received a design patent for a new type of bag for carry-out food.

The lives and community activities of this couple, UAC's 2008 Kinship Award recipients, demonstrate the values Appalachians treasure. Nina and Nick Clooney will be honored at the Urban Appalachian Council 2008 Kinship Dinner on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Local 12::WKRC-TV news anchor, Rob Braun will be MC for the event which will take place at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. For more information please call UAC at (513) 251-0202.