

***For Immediate Release***

***Justice for All Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs***

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs Memorial Service and Conference will be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The Service and Conference will be preceded by a Caravan that will assemble at 610 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the first Union Missionary Baptist Church in Meridian, Mississippi at 8:30 on Saturday morning.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Caravan will depart at 9:00a.m. And will pass by the former COFO office on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The route of the Caravan will include the graves of James Chaney and his mother Fannie Chaney; the jail where James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Scherer were detained on June 21, 1964(until their murders could be arranged); and the site of the murders of the three civil rights workers. There will be a one-block March for Justice and visits to the Okatibbee Missionary Baptist Church and to Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church. Finally, the Caravan for Justice will arrive at the old Longdale Community Center site which was fire bombed because it was a meeting place for African-Americans and Native-Americans.

We will call for pardons for Gladys and Jamie Scott and for null investigations into suspicious deaths that have been called suicides. We will call for justice for all civil rights martyrs because compared to the number of murders committed in Mississippi, investigations and prosecutions of known perpetrators have been very few.

Speakers will include Ms. Diane Nash who in April of 1960 helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); in 1961 she took over responsibility for the Freedom Rides from Birmingham, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi. Ms Nash also designed the strategy used by (SNCC)in the Selma, Alabama "Right To Vote" campaign, and was an important organizer for the 1963 campaign in Birmingham, Alabama. President John F. Kennedy appointed her to a National Committee that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Rev. C. T. Vivian a close friend and lieutenant of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rev. Vivian studied for the Ministry at the American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1959 Rev. Vivian met Rev. James Lawson, who was teaching Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent direct action strategy to the Student Central Committee. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1960, 4,000,00 Demonstrators marched on city hall where Rev. C. T. Vivian and Diane Nash challenged Nashville Mayor Ben West, As a result, Mayor West publicly agreed that racial discrimination was morally wrong.

Besides remembering and honoring those whose lives were taken in the struggle, the weekend will be a time to exchange thoughts and ideas, to strategize and to develop plans to continue the struggle against racial, economic, legal and social oppression in Mississippi.

**Directions to the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs Memorial Service and Conference.**

**From Meridian to Mt. Nebo Church**—Take hwy 19 North to Philadelphia (37miles). Hwy 19 becomes Holland Avenue. Proceed to Beacon Street. Turn left on Beacon Street (also known as MS-16w) and go 0.2 mile; turn right on Pecan Avenue (MS-21/19). Go 0.3 mile. Turn left on Rea Street. Go 0.4 mile. Turn right on Carver Avenue. Go 0.2 mile. Mt. Nebo will be on your right.

**From Philadelphia to Longdale**—Take HWY 16 East 2 miles to County Road#482 and turn left. Go 7 miles then right onto County Road #632. Go one mile. The Longdale Center is on your right.

**Contact**

**John Steele, Chairman**

**Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs Memorial Service (AMMMS)**

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**We have other speakers who will speak at the 47th Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs**

**Memorial Service ,Conference, Rallies and March for Justice.**

Curtis (Hayes) Muhammad worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). Curtis worked in McComb, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Greenwood, Greenville, Clarksdale, Hollandale, Natchez Mississippi, Washington D.C. and Chicago, IL. Curtis latest organizing project is the International School for Bottom-Up organizing. We can say that Curtis is a Freedom Fighter for life.

Barbara Chaney who worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (Core) in Meridian, Mississippi and in Philadelphia, Mississippi. She is the sister of James E. Chaney. Barbara has continued the struggle for a full measure of Justice for these 47 years

George and Louis Smith both natives of Meridian, Ms. Worked with (Core) Congress of Racial Equality from 1964 till 1967 they also worked with the (MFDP) Mississippi Freedom Party. They worked along with Michael Schwerner and James Chaney before they were murdered, along with Andrew Goodman on June 21, 1964. The Smiths continue their work in civil rights in Fort Wayne, Indiana as they both are executive board members of the Martin Luther King Club and on the board of the NAACP.

Steven McNichols who was arrested on the (Core) Congress of Racial Equality Freedom Ride on August 11, 1967, Houston, Texas. Steven and three other white males was thrown into the Misdemeanor tank with 107 prisoners which was controlled by a small band of hardened criminals. The guards told the inmates to beat the Freedom Riders. After their release, the Texas Court of Appeals reversed their convictions a year later. This made Steven McNichols extremely active in the movement after this experience. Steven was admitted to the California State Bar, Specializing in Employment and Civil Rights Law.

Joe Morse was in Core and MFDP worker. Nina Boles was in Core and MFDP worker. Margaret Block was SNCC Worker and she is the sister of well known Civil Rights Worker Sam Block. Mrs. Valarie Hicks Powe, the Attorney for Fredrick Jermaine Carter. Mrs. Evelyn Rasco mother of Gladys and Jamie Scott. Yvonne Williams singer who open for Babyface and After 7. Jamal Robinson Entrepreneur Jamal is founder of Believe in A Dream Foundation.8. Richard A. Stevenson Sr. is presently Councilman of Fort Wayne, Indiana.9. Delois McKinley-Elderidge is the Commissioner for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission and on the board of the NAACP.10. Annis Annette McKenize Collins Civil Rights Activist, Educator, Community Activist, Organizer and a Student for life in learning . Her family helped house Civil Rights Activist. She now serves as Educational Administrator of the Ujima Cultural Center11. Rev Dr. Samuel L. Thompson Has a Master of Theology: from Mississippi Baptist Seminary, in Jackson, MS. He received his Doctor of Divinity: from Natchez College in Natchez, MS. Presently employed: Senior pastor of the Thirty Frist Missionary Baptist Church of Meridian, MS. Gladys and Jamie Scott who were given life sentences for the alleged robbery of \$11.00 dollars. Out now on parole for a crime that many feel should have been pardoned with compensation. Mrs Brenda Carter, mother of Fredrick Jermaine Carter who was found hanging from a tree in Greenwood, MS. Many more Speakers and Participants will take part in the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Civil Rights Martyrs Memorial Service, Conference, Caravan, Rallies, and March for Justice.