



VETERANS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, INC.

NEWS UPDATE

Contact:

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Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc., 12th Anniversary Conference March 29-April 2, 2017 @ Tougaloo College

Jackson, MS – The Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc. (VMCRM) is celebrating twelve years of service and leadership in the ongoing pursuit of human rights during its **12th Anniversary Conference**. Join us **March 29-April 2, 2017** on the historical campus of **Tougaloo College**. This year's theme is **"Nobody's Free Until Everybody's Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Mississippi and the Continued Freedom Struggle."** This year we also celebrate the centennial of the birth of a shero, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer. She would have been 100 years old in 2017. Thus in honoring her legacy, conference strategy sessions are designed to continue the poignant discussions between veterans and young people during the Centennial Celebration.

As a member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party, Mrs. Hamer fought tirelessly for civil rights and for political power for the state of Mississippi. She worked daily to improve the lives of everyday people especially people of color. In her famous quote *"I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired"*, she echoed the thoughts and emotions of a people and a generation. Truly a shero, we dedicate this year's conference to her memory in hopes that others will be inspired to continue to fight the good fight. The conference will include community activists, civil rights veterans, organizers, educators, historians, film makers and students as they exchange ideas for creative solutions to some of our modern-day social justice issues. Events include:

- **Wednesday, March, 29**—Jimmie Travis Civil Rights Legacy Symposium Series, 6:30 pm
- **Thursday, March 30**—Luncheon, plenary & strategy sessions, keynote speakers, *The Rose of Ruleville* Theatrical Play presented by MADDRAMA;
- **Friday, March 31**—Trip to Ruleville, MS to visit the historical places in honor of Mrs. Hamer, Student Research & Creative Arts Entries Competition
- **Saturday, April 1**—HBCU Workshop, Veterans Business Meeting, Civil Rights Tours, Films, Veterans Legacy Awards Celebration honoring the family of Mrs. Hamer along with local and national leaders.
- **Sunday, April 2**—Program hosted at the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute at COFO, Jackson, MS

Registration for adults is only \$75 and \$15 for students. Legacy Awards Celebration tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for students. For the complete conference schedule, online registration, commemorative souvenir book information, volunteer and sponsor opportunities, visit our website @ www.MSCivilRightsVeterans.com. You may also contact Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Executive Director, via email @ MississippiCivilRightsVeterans@gmail.com or you may call (601) 977-7914 or (601) 918-7809.

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About the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc.

Having begun in 2004 with small meetings that grew into our first conference a year later, the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc., continues to collect and archive oral histories of civil rights veterans across the country, and supports persons actively using those stories to continue the pursuit of freedom, justice and equality. We are committed to unveiling the truth that can be found in these authentic stories as we "empower the next generation, passing it on to carry it on."