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VMCRM Welcomes Newest Board Member, Attorney Isaac Byrd

Jackson, MS – The Board of Directors of the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc. is thrilled to announce our newest board member, Attorney Isaac Byrd. He was elected on March 11, 2017 and his official term began immediately. Isaac K. Byrd, Jr., is the founder of Byrd and Associates. Over the last thirty years, the firm has been awarded many multi-million dollar judgments and settlements, including a record \$150 million-dollar jury verdict for compensatory damages on behalf of six men injured because of asbestos.

Byrd's political insights have been put into effective service for many persons, including races for mayors to judgeships in local, state and federal elections. His wisdom and dedication resulted in the election and re-election of Jackson's first African American mayor in 1997 and 2001, respectively. He has been in the arena of politics in Mississippi since 1979 when he and others ushered in William Winter's governorship. Byrd became the first African American chancery judge to preside in a Mississippi courtroom.

Byrd's support of the arts and humanities in Mississippi has become legend. His service includes being on the boards of the Arts Alliance, Mississippi Opera, New Stage Theater, Ballet Mississippi and the Margaret Walker-Alexander National Research Center. He helped spearhead the national fund raising campaign for the Medgar Evers Statue Fund and many others. He continues to support the Central Troopers Association, Women for Progress, Inc., the Mississippi Chapter of 100 Black Men, the Mississippi Coalition of 100 Black Women, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and numerous African American churches and civic organizations. He singularly sponsored the national museum exhibit "Passages – Photographs in Africa" for the Mississippi Museum of Art. He has served as co-chair of the Alexis De Tocqueville Society, a philanthropic organization of the United Way.

He is a frequent lecturer before local, state, national legal, civic, religious, and political groups. "With passion, commitment and sacrifice, we can move this state and nation to respond to the human condition", says Byrd. "We are very excited to have Attorney Byrd on board with us," said Hollis Watkins, Chairman of the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc. Board of Directors. "Attorney Byrd has played an integral role in the work of civil and human rights throughout the country and is an accomplished professional. His expertise, talents, and skills will be a great asset to our non-profit as we continue empowering the next generation.

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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.