



ASCMRC

Americus-Sumter County Movement Remembered Committee, Inc.

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Greetings Friend of the Americus Movement:

From July 1963, through early 1966, hundreds of African Americans took to the streets of Americus, Georgia to protest racist Jim Crow laws that dehumanized and humiliated their community. The horrific police brutality, mass incarcerations and murders that followed, unified us as never before, and Americus took its place alongside Albany, Selma, and Montgomery in its struggle for human and civil rights. These collective struggles provided the leverage needed to secure passage of the Civil Rights Bill of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In January of 2007, a number of veterans of the Americus-Sumter County Movement returned to Americus to plan a lasting tribute to the courageous "Foot Soldiers" who sacrificed life and limb in the fight to reclaim their humanity. Participants vowed then to work to establish an organization whose mission is to empower the Americus community through vigorous advocacy, education and economic development. Some of our initiatives include providing mentoring and scholarships to students, addressing the needs of senior citizens, seeking employment opportunities and voter registration.

The most ambitious goal of the ASCMRC is to establish a Civil Rights Museum and Interpretive Center in Americus. This museum will house all the memorabilia we continue to collect from around the country that documents the Americus Civil Rights Movement. Included in our collection are photographs, newspaper articles, film artifacts, and weekly field reports of SNCC field workers, who were part of the Southwest Georgia Project. Included in this collection, is the actual jail cell that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was held in Americus, in January, 1961. That cell has been dismantled and is now being stored until a museum site is secured. The cell will then be re-assembled as it appeared in 1961, and made available for viewing. In 2007, we launched an "Oral History Project", and began video recording Americus civil rights veterans as they recall their experiences in the movement. These vivid accounts will be central to our archives and will serve as reminders to generations to come, of the impact and contributions of the Americus Movement.

As Chairman of the ASCMRC, I invite you to join us on July 23rd, 2011, at our bi-annual Benefit that not only honors veterans of the Americus Movement, but also supports many of the initiatives mentioned above. The Guest speaker will be noted human rights activist, Dr. M. William Howard, Jr. Dr. Howard, an Americus native, is a former president of the National and the World Council of Churches, and the New York Theological Seminary. He presently serves as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church of Newark, New Jersey. If you cannot be present, please partner with us by making a financial contribution equal to one of the levels in the enclosed form. Thank you for your support, and be well.

Sincerely

Sam Mahone
Chairman, ASCMRC, Inc.