



SCLC Mourns the loss of Civil Rights Legend Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr





ATLANTA — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference mourns the passing and celebrates the extraordinary life of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., a giant of public faith and courage whose leadership helped expand the reach of the Civil Rights Movement and challenged America to live closer to its stated ideals.

Rev. Jackson's early advocacy was shaped alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the work of SCLC, including Operation Breadbasket, where the Movement organized for economic dignity and opportunity in everyday life. In the decades that followed, Rev. Jackson continued that work through Rainbow PUSH, as a political candidate, and as a trailblazer who elevated issues of justice, equity, and human rights onto the national and global stage.

SCLC joins the Jackson family, Rainbow PUSH, and communities across the nation in honoring a legacy defined by service, vision, and an unrelenting belief that America can be better than it is.

Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., Chairman of the Board of SCLC

“Rev. Jesse Jackson was not only a fellow laborer in the Movement, he was my friend. Jesse impacted the world in so many ways, as a civil rights leader, a fearless advocate for economic justice, a founder of Rainbow PUSH, and a political trailblazer who brought our issues to the national stage. But what sticks out to me is that he embodied hope. You cannot become better until you have hope, and Jesse, in so many ways, gave all of us the hope of what was possible. Like so many of us, we started as young people and dedicated our lives to building the Beloved Community.”

DeMark Liggins, Sr., President/CEO of SCLC

“SCLC is proud to have been part of Rev. Jackson's early advocacy with Dr. King and SCLC, especially through Operation Breadbasket. He

carried that same courage forward through Rainbow PUSH. I still remember being a kid and being inspired to "Keep Hope Alive!" and being uplifted because "I am Somebody".