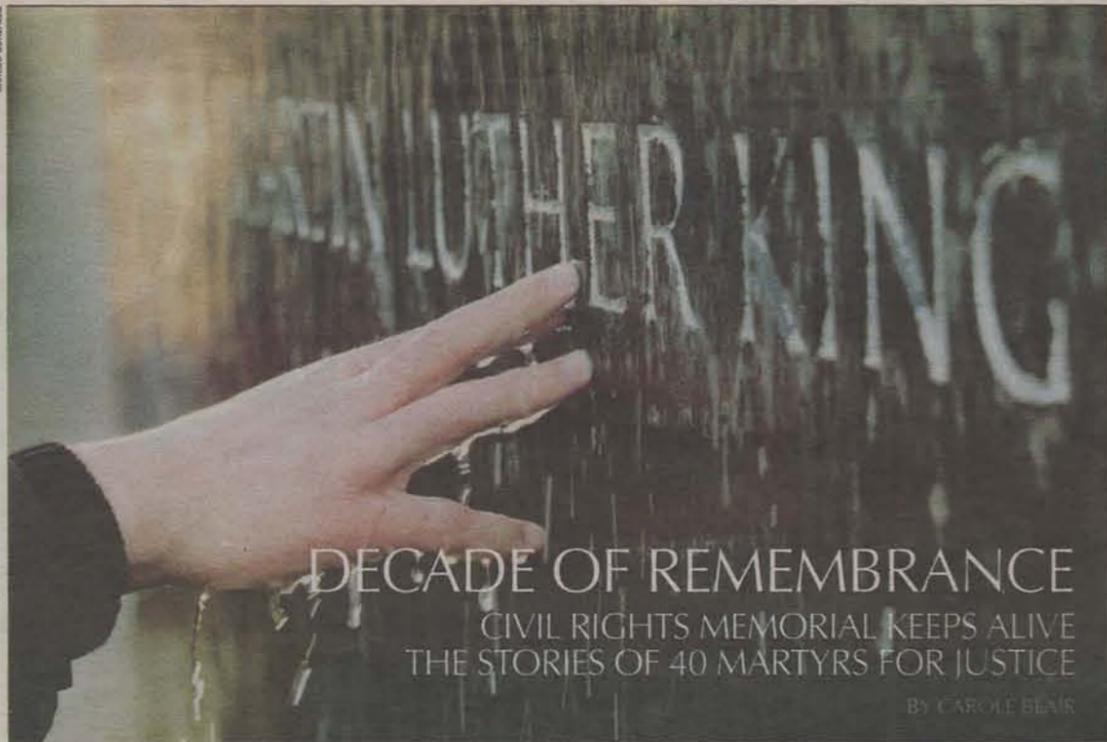


THE CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

A DECADE OF REMEMBRANCE 1989-1999



Capuchino High School students Ladreena Maye (left) and Angela St. Peter



DECADE OF REMEMBRANCE

CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL KEEPS ALIVE THE STORIES OF 40 MARTYRS FOR JUSTICE

BY CAROLÉ BLAIR

As this country grappled with renewed and often intensified hostilities over race-related issues in the late 1980s, a quiet but eloquent statement was taking shape in Montgomery. That statement was the Civil Rights Memorial. Commissioned by the Southern Poverty Law Center, designed by Maya Lin, and dedicated November 5, 1989, the Memorial has stood for 10 years as an honorific marker of past struggles for justice and as an unequivocal challenge to the present and future.

Much like the public actions of the movement it represents (sit-ins, demonstrations, and the like), the Civil Rights Memorial intrudes on "business as usual." Its front table structure interrupts the path of pedestrians on the sidewalk, compelling the attention of passersby to its story. And what a story it is! A timeline, inscribed around the perimeter of the circular tabletop chronicles successes and setbacks, victories and failures. It records a succession of spectacular civil rights successes — *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the Montgomery bus boycott, and passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts.

Interspersed among these successes on the timeline, however, are 40 murders of men, women, and children whose deaths energized the Movement or who were killed because of their connection to civil rights activism. Some were already well known, like Medgar Evers. Others, like Emmett Till, Jimmy Lee Jackson, and Viola Liuzzo, gained prominence only in their violent deaths. Again, like the movement it represents, the Memorial displays the mindless brutality ordained by white supremacy and the vicious fanaticism of bias gone mad.

Racial justice remains a goal

The beginning and end of the chronology converge at an open, un-inscribed space on the table, symbolic of all that still remains to be done. The timeline's final inscription, immediately preceding that blank space, records the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. It demands that we go further, for surely we cannot let his death stand as the final chapter of the story. The paraphrased quotation from the Book of Amos on the wall in back of the table, from King's "I Have a Dream"

speech, "... until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream," reinforces the message that we have not achieved racial justice and harmony even now, despite the many successes and sacrifices of the past.



The Memorial's wall occasionally catches the reflected image of security personnel, patrolling the area around the Memorial and the Center. Their images become part of the Memorial for an instant, underscoring its message. The Center receives frequent threats of violence because of its

ongoing legal and educational programs. The necessity for such obvious protection sustains the Memorial's claims about the present and our continuing failure as a society to overcome hostility toward difference, to achieve the just and righteous community King envisioned.

Ironically, security precautions also prevent visitors' ascension of the stairs that front the Center to see the upper level of the Civil Rights Memorial, where they would see a still pool of water on plain black granite. The calm of that water contrasts with the water flowing evenly across the table and the rushing water down the face of the wall below. The still water whispers of hope — hope for a future of harmony and peace, a time when events memorable enough to be inscribed on commemorative stone are no longer needed.

The Memorial's representations of past, present, and future interact to offer a challenge to the visitor. They pose questions about what actions must be taken to

close the circle of inscriptions on the table. They ask how we can move beyond the injustices of past and present, to a serene future in which differences invigorate rather than divide our communities. The Memorial offers no easy answers. In fact, it reminds us that facile answers aren't possible. The sequence of the timeline warns us that that circle could be closed by another setback or act of violence just as surely as it could be inscribed with a dramatic step toward honoring and celebrating difference. It places us, as visitors, in a position of power — the choices belong to us.

'Highly significant monument'

The Civil Rights Memorial is an unusual and highly significant commemorative monument.

It is unusual because we in the U.S. aren't accustomed to building memorial tributes to people who oppose or call attention to the imperfections or moral lapses of our nation. Nor is it typical to find public commemorative art that reminds us of our current failings. The Memorial is significant precisely because it does those things. It is significant as well for its proffer of education, memory and challenge. For those too young to have witnessed or learned about the civil rights events of the 1950s and 1960s, it serves as an educational vehicle and a prod to learn even more. For those who would forget that past or continue to overlook the problems still facing us, the Civil Rights Memorial stands in the way. For those who already are aware and concerned, the Memorial challenges us to be the builders of a new and better future.

Maya Lin and the Southern Poverty Law Center have contributed a wonderful gift to the nation — a beautiful and moving civic monument, a lasting tribute to the sacrifices and successes of the past, and an inspiring challenge to us all to create a better future.

Carole Blair is professor of American Studies at the University of California, Davis. She is spending Fall 1999 as a visiting faculty member at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She and photographer Neil Michael, co-owner of Axiom Photo and Design, in Davis, California, are collaborating on a book about the Civil Rights Memorial.



Maya Lin at the Civil Rights Memorial's dedication ceremony

It was on a plane trip to Montgomery in 1988 to meet Center officials and visit the site of the proposed memorial that Maya Lin got her inspiration. Reading through some research material, she came across the words "until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream," a paraphrase from the Book of Amos that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used in

his "I Have a Dream" speech and at the start of the Montgomery bus boycott eight years earlier.

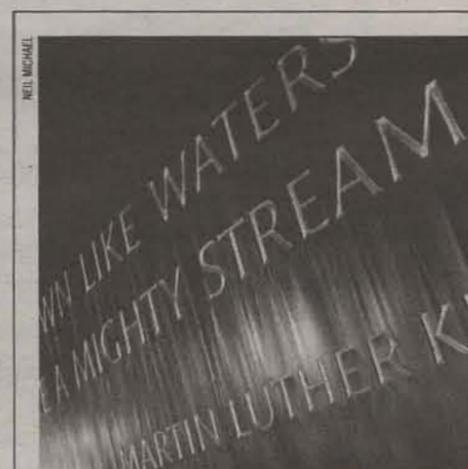
"It occurred to me," she said, "in a hot, Southern climate, water — a cooling, calming process — would be very appropriate." Its soothing quality and quiet, constant sound would be perfect for the contemplative area Lin wanted to create in front of the Center — a place "to appreciate how far the country has

come in its quest for equality and to consider how far it has to go."

Like the Vietnam War Memorial, which Lin designed when she was a senior at Yale, the Civil Rights Memorial invites visitors to touch the names, but the reaching out is different, less an act of personal mourning than historic exploration.

"In a memorial, you're trying to reach out to an audience," she said. "Who the audience is varies from memorial to memorial. The Vietnam memorial is very private, very cathartic, individual. This memorial — there are very few people who actually knew those who were killed. This is more educational. Schoolchildren come to this. It's here to memorialize the events and history, to commemorate the struggles.

"The goal was to make something relevant for generations to come, for 100 years from now," Lin said recently. "Ten years may seem like a milestone, but the Memorial is still very young."



In Lin's work, water is an offspring and a carrier of truth. It reveals what we and our planet are made of: around two-thirds of the human body is water, as well as two-thirds of the earth. It points toward human origins: the ocean is the source of earthly life. The bubble formed by the water rising from the stone table of the Civil Rights Memorial resembles a

navel, or an *omphalos*, which makes it seem as if the water is both emerging from and making the memorial itself part of the body of the earth.

... Lin does not leave the past behind but gives it a poetic presence in which it is vital without being repressive. She also, through her use of stone, gives it an

inescapable weight. In the Civil Rights Memorial, the massive stone is every bit as irrefutable in its ancientness as the water that reaches out of it into the present and future. As much as the water, the stone is alive. Stone gives birth to water even as water animates stone.

Michael Brenson, 1998
Maya Lin: Topologies



MEMORIAL IS A TEACHING TOOL

Center co-founder Morris Dees conceived the Civil Rights Memorial as a way to educate future generations about the important events of the Civil Rights Movement and to honor the memory and achievements of those who had died. That educational purpose is fulfilled daily. In addition to the regular stream of individuals who arrive by car and on foot, buses bring scores of schoolchildren to the Memorial. Through a powerful lesson written in stone, they learn about the

heroes and the ordinary people who lost their lives in the struggle for justice and equality.

During holiday breaks and over the summer, the Memorial attracts many groups of students — high school and college — who are taking a civil rights history tour. Some are sponsored by their schools, and others operate under the auspices of nonprofit ventures like Operation Understanding, an organization that promotes better relationships between black and Jewish students.

Last February, 85 Capuchino High School students from San Bruno, California, participated in a 10-day "Sojourn to the Past," a tour of the South's civil rights landmarks. Midway through their journey, they visited the Memorial. "It was a day in which the students made contact, symbolically and directly, with the people of the civil rights movement," wrote Mark Simon, a journalist who accompanied the students. Below are recollections of two of those students.

A LESSON IN TOLERANCE *By Teresa Calpotura*

On day five of our trip, we were able to visit a monument called the Civil Rights Memorial. Now, I could describe it as a black circular granite table with famous names and events etched into it — with a hypnotic sheet of water running over the top — but that by far wouldn't be sufficient.

The place commanded total respect from adults and students alike. There was almost a holiness in the hushed atmosphere you could feel, because people were so absorbed by what they were seeing.

I remember running my fingers over the same exact words that Rosa Parks did at the dedication of the Memorial, and I could almost imagine her reading the history she had made. In simple, yet powerful words ... "1 December 1955, Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a White man, Montgomery, Alabama."

But when I looked up, I saw that my fellow students, also gathered around the table and all of various religions, colors and cultures, were doing the same thing for other names. And I realized that my experience at the Memorial wasn't entirely unique.

We learned an important lesson of tolerance that day. That, despite our differences, we could all appreciate the brave and often tragic sacrifices of others who understood human similarity. If only the whole world could do the same.

WE MUST TEACH THIS TO OTHERS *By Rachel Mann*

While still near the Memorial, I wrote in a notebook, "The light sound of that water and the powerful completion of the circle is phenomenal. As I run my fingertips over the names of those who were lost, I am filled with a feeling of remorse and faith." Visiting that Memorial was truly an inspiration.

As Maya Lin put it, "The Civil Rights Memorial is a place to remember the Civil Rights Movement, to honor those killed during the struggle, to appreciate how far the country has come in its quest for equality and to consider how far it has yet to go." With those words in mind, I am reminded of what this trip has taught me and my fellow students, how we have learned to tolerate and forgive each other and how we must teach this to others.

So many souls were sacrificed because of intolerance. Racism and hate are just two aspects of intolerance suffered by the people the Memorial recognizes. According to the dictionary, "to tolerate" means "to allow to be." We must use this idea to live together peacefully. We must teach others around us to do the same. Forgive one another. Have faith in each other. Use nonviolence. And have tolerance for every last one.

For more information about "Sojourn to the Past," call the program's organizer Jeff Steinberg, a former Capuchino High School teacher at (650) 873-5816.

PLAY, DOCUMENTARY USE MEMORIAL AS THEIR THEME

A play produced this fall in Chicago and a new documentary to be aired in February both use the Civil Rights Memorial as their theme. *The State of Mississippi vs. Emmett Till*, co-authored by Chicago playwright David Barr and Mamie Till Mobley, uses the dedication of the Memorial as a frame for its story, and its set was designed to look like the Memorial. *Civil Rights Martyrs: Free at Last* is a two-hour television special that tells eight stories that are inscribed on the Memorial.

Opening night for *The State of Mississippi vs. Emmett Till*, presented by the Pegasus Players at Truman College, was September 9. Originally set to close in mid-October, its run was extended three weeks due to its popularity. "It's been a great success — both with people coming in and with the critics," said company manager Alex Levy.

The play begins on November 5, 1989, at the Memorial's dedication. Its script opens with Mamie Till Mobley, Emmett's mother, and Morris Dees conversing before the ceremony begins. Dees tells Mobley that her

galvanizing events in the fight for civil rights.

Told in flashbacks, the play provides a poignant picture of the spunky youth who went South for the summer. Much of its second act is reconstructed testimony from the trial. "Much of the play's shattering immediacy can be traced to the fact that it bears the direct imprint of Mamie Till Mobley, the boy's mother," wrote a *Chicago Tribune* reviewer. "This is Till Mobley's story, as well as her son's, and the play unfolds mostly through her eyes." Despite many previous offers, the play is the first time Mobley collaborated on her son's story.

Memorial inspired playwright

Playwright Barr's inspiration was the Memorial itself. "I stood in front of that memorial, and I read the names," he said. "There was Linda Brown of *Brown vs. Board of Education*, and Rosa Parks. And then there was Emmett Till. When I saw that, I just sat down and cried."

Till's story is among those recounted in the made-for-television documentary, *Civil Rights Martyrs*, tentatively set to

air February 10 on

The Learning Channel. The two-hour film also tells the stories of Medgar Evers, the four little girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing, the three civil rights workers slain in Mississippi, Jimmy Lee Jackson, the Rev. James Reeb, Viola Liuzzo and Vernon Dahmer. Each is



Michelle Wilson as Mamie Till Mobley and Chris Jackson as Morris Dees in *The State of Mississippi vs. Emmett Till*

son's life "changed everything for me. . . . It made me seriously re-examine the entire Southern way of life. How he was killed and why he was killed," says the actor portraying Dees.

A 14-year-old Chicago boy, Emmett was brutally murdered on August 28, 1955, ostensibly because he had whistled at the wife of a white store owner in Money, Mississippi. The crime, and the kangaroo trial that followed — with its verdict of not guilty for the two white killers, delivered by an all-white jury in a segregated courtroom — were

included on the Memorial's table. [See back page of this special section for more information.]

Center co-founder Morris Dees provides historical context throughout the documentary, and it ends with footage of the Memorial. Many of the martyrs' family members are also interviewed.

Civil Rights Martyrs is produced by Bill Brummel Productions, which also produced the highly acclaimed *The Ku Klux Klan: A Secret History*. It is narrated by Steve Harris, who has won two Emmy Awards for his performance as a lawyer in ABC's "The Practice."



THE DEDICATION NOVEMBER 5, 1989

Over 6,000 people gathered in Montgomery on November 5, 1989, to witness the dedication of the Memorial. Julian Bond, president emeritus of the Center and current chairman of the NAACP, gave the keynote address. Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King III offered personal observations.

The crowd included hundreds of relatives of the 40 people whose names are engraved on the Memorial. Several relatives were among the speakers: Rita Schwerner Bender, widow of Michael Schwerner; Mamie Till Mobley, mother of Emmett Till; Chris McNair, father of Birmingham bombing victim Denise McNair; and Myrlie Evers Williams,

widow of Medgar Evers. Ethel Kennedy, widow of Robert Kennedy, was also present.

In his address, Bond honored those "who died so all might be free." He asked those at the dedication to gather "not in recrimination, but in reconciliation, remembrance and resolve." [The entire speech is posted on the Center's Web site, www.splcenter.org.]

Rosa Parks and Julian Bond examine the Memorial following the dedication ceremony.

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FORTY LIVES FOR FREEDOM

On the Civil Rights Memorial are inscribed the names of 40 people who lost their lives in the struggle for freedom between 1954 and 1968.

They include those who were targeted for death because of their civil rights activities; those who were random victims of vigilantes determined to halt the movement; and

those who, in the sacrifice of their own lives, brought a new awareness of the struggle to people all over the world.

The chronology below briefly describes their lives and lists the key events of the movement.

1954

MAY 17, 1954

SUPREME COURT OUTLAW SCHOOL SEGREGATION IN BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION

1955

REV. GEORGE LEE, one of the first black people registered to vote in Humphreys County, used his pulpit and his printing press to urge others to vote. White officials offered Lee protection on the condition he end his voter registration efforts, but Lee refused and was murdered.

MAY 7, 1955

Belzoni, Mississippi

LAMAR SMITH was shot dead on the courthouse lawn by a white man in broad daylight while dozens of people watched. The killer was never indicted because no one would admit they saw a white man shoot a black man. Smith had organized blacks to vote in a recent election.

AUGUST 13, 1955

Brookhaven, Mississippi

EMMETT LOUIS TILL, a 14-year-old boy on vacation from Chicago, reportedly flirted with a white woman in a store. That night, two men took Till from his bed, beat him, shot him, and dumped his body in the Tallahatchie River. An all-white jury found the men innocent of murder.

AUGUST 28, 1955

Money, Mississippi

JOHN EARL REESE, 16, was dancing in a café when white men fired shots into the windows. Reese was killed and two others were wounded. The shootings were part of an attempt by whites to terrorize blacks into giving up plans for a new school.

OCTOBER 22, 1955

Mayflower, Texas

DECEMBER 1, 1955

ROSA PARKS ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO GIVE UP HER SEAT ON A BUS TO A WHITE MAN - MONTGOMERY, AL

DECEMBER 5, 1955

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT BEGINS

1956

NOVEMBER 13, 1956

SUPREME COURT BANS SEGREGATED SEATING ON MONTGOMERY BUSES

1957

WILLIE EDWARDS JR., a truck driver, was on his way to work when he was stopped by four Klansmen. The men thought Edwards was another man who they believed was dating a white woman. They forced Edwards at gunpoint to jump off a bridge into the Alabama River. Edwards' body was found three months later.

JANUARY 23, 1957

Montgomery, Alabama

AUGUST 29, 1957

CONGRESS PASSES FIRST CIVIL RIGHTS ACT SINCE RECONSTRUCTION

SEPTEMBER 24, 1957

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER ORDERS FEDERAL TROOPS TO

ENFORCE SCHOOL DESEGREGATION - LITTLE ROCK, AR

1959

MACK CHARLES PARKER, 23, was accused of raping a white woman. Three days before his case was set for trial, a masked mob took him from his jail cell, beat him, shot him, and threw him in the Pearl River.

APRIL 25, 1959

Poplarville, Mississippi

1960

FEBRUARY 1, 1960

BLACK STUDENTS STAGE SIT-IN AT 'WHITES ONLY' LUNCH COUNTER - GREENSBORO, NC

DECEMBER 5, 1960

SUPREME COURT OUTLAW SEGREGATION IN BUS TERMINALS

1961

MAY 14, 1961

FREEDOM RIDERS ATTACKED IN ALABAMA WHILE TESTING COMPLIANCE WITH BUS DESEGREGATION LAWS

HERBERT LEE, who worked with civil rights leader Bob Moses to help register black voters, was killed by a state legislator who claimed self-defense and was never arrested. Louis Allen, a black man who witnessed the murder, was later also killed.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1961

Liberty, Mississippi

1962

APRIL 1, 1962

CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS JOIN FORCES TO LAUNCH VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

CPL. ROMAN DUCKSWORTH JR., a military police officer stationed in Maryland, was on leave to visit his sick wife when he was ordered off a bus by a police officer and shot dead. The police officer may have mistaken Duckworth for a "freedom rider" who was testing bus desegregation laws.

APRIL 9, 1962

Taylorville, Mississippi

SEPTEMBER 30, 1962

RIOTS ERUPT WHEN JAMES MEREDITH, A BLACK STUDENT, ENROLLS AT OLE MISS

PAUL GUIHARD, a reporter for a French news service, was killed by gunfire from a white mob during protests over the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1962

Oxford, Mississippi

1963

WILLIAM LEWIS MOORE, a postman from Baltimore, was shot and killed during a one-man march against segregation. Moore had planned to deliver a letter to the governor of Mississippi urging an end to intolerance.

APRIL 23, 1963

Attalla, Alabama

MAY 3, 1963

BIRMINGHAM POLICE ATTACK MARCHING CHILDREN WITH DOGS AND FIREHOSES

JUNE 11, 1963

ALABAMA GOVERNOR STANDS

IN SCHOOLHOUSE DOOR TO STOP UNIVERSITY INTEGRATION

MEDGAR EVERS, who directed NAACP operations in Mississippi, was leading a campaign for integration in Jackson when he was shot and killed by a sniper at his home.

JUNE 12, 1963

Jackson, Mississippi

AUGUST 28, 1963

250,000 AMERICANS MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

ADDIE MAE COLLINS, DENISE McNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON and CYNTHIA WESLEY were getting ready for church services when a bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, killing all four of the school-age girls. The church had been a center for civil rights meetings and marches.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1963

Birmingham, Alabama

VIRGIL LAMAR WARE, 13, was riding on the handlebars of his brother's bicycle when he was fatally shot by white teen-agers. The white youths had come from a segregationist rally held in the aftermath of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1963

Birmingham, Alabama

1964

JANUARY 23, 1964

POLL TAX OUTLAWED IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

LOUIS ALLEN, who witnessed the murder of civil rights worker Herbert Lee, endured years of threats, jailings and harassment. He was making final arrangements to move North on the day he was killed.

APRIL 7, 1964

Liberty, Mississippi

REV. BRUCE KLUNDER was among civil rights activists who protested the building of a segregated school by placing their bodies in the way of construction equipment. Klunder was crushed to death when a bulldozer backed over him.

APRIL 7, 1964

Cleveland, Ohio

HENRY HEZEKIAH DEE and CHARLES EDDIE MOORE were killed by Klansmen who believed the two were part of a plot to arm blacks in the area. (There was no such plot.) Their bodies were found during a massive search for the missing civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner.

MAY 2, 1964

Meadville, Mississippi

JUNE 20, 1964

FREEDOM SUMMER BRINGS 1,000 YOUNG CIVIL RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS TO MISSISSIPPI

JAMES EARL CHANEY, ANDREW GOODMAN, and MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER, young civil rights workers, were arrested by a deputy sheriff and then released into the hands of Klansmen who had plotted their murders. They were shot, and their bodies were buried in an earthen dam.

JUNE 21, 1964

Philadelphia, Mississippi

JULY 2, 1964

PRESIDENT JOHNSON SIGNS CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

LT. COL. LEMUEL PENN, a Washington, D.C., educator, was driving home from U.S. Army Reserves training when he was shot and killed by Klansmen in a passing car.

JULY 11, 1964

Colbert, Georgia

1965

JIMMIE LEE JACKSON was beaten and shot by state troopers as he tried to protect his grandfather and mother from a trooper attack on civil rights marchers. His death led to the Selma-Montgomery march and the eventual passage of the Voting Rights Act.

FEBRUARY 26, 1965

Marion, Alabama

MARCH 7, 1965

STATE TROOPERS BEAT BACK MARCHERS AT EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE - SELMA, AL

REV. JAMES REEB, a Unitarian minister from Boston, was among many white clergymen who joined the Selma marchers after the attack by state troopers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Reeb was beaten to death by white men while he walked down a Selma street.

MARCH 11, 1965

Selma, Alabama

MARCH 25, 1965

CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY COMPLETED

VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, a housewife and mother from Detroit, drove alone to Alabama to help with the Selma march after seeing televised reports of the attack at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. She was driving marchers back to Selma from Montgomery when she was shot and killed by a Klansmen in a passing car.

MARCH 25, 1965

Selma Highway, Alabama

ONEAL MOORE was one of two black deputies hired by white officials in an attempt to appease civil rights demands. Moore and his partner Creed Rogers were on patrol when they were blasted with gunfire from a passing car. Moore was killed and Rogers was wounded.

JUNE 2, 1965

Bogalusa, Louisiana

JULY 9, 1965

CONGRESS PASSES VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

WILLIE BREWSTER was on his way home from work when he was shot and killed by white men. The men belonged to the National States Rights Party, a violent neo-Nazi group whose members had been involved in church bombings and murders of blacks.

JULY 18, 1965

Anniston, Alabama

JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS, an Episcopal Seminary student in Boston, had come to Alabama to help with black voter registration in Lowndes County. He was arrested at a demonstration, jailed in Hayneville and then suddenly released. Moments after his release, he was shot to death by a deputy sheriff.

AUGUST 20, 1965

Hayneville, Alabama

1966

SAMUEL LEAMON YOUNGE JR., a student civil rights activist, was fatally shot by a white gas station owner following an argument over segregated restrooms.

JANUARY 3, 1966

Tuskegee, Alabama

VERNON FERDINAND DAHMER, a wealthy businessman, offered to pay poll taxes for those who couldn't afford the fee required to vote. The night after a radio station broadcasted Dahmer's offer, his home was firebombed. Dahmer died later from severe burns.

JANUARY 10, 1966

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

BEN CHESTER WHITE, who had worked most of his life as a caretaker on a plantation, had no involvement in civil rights work. He was murdered by Klansmen who thought they could divert attention from a civil rights march by killing a black person.

JUNE 10, 1966

Natchez, Mississippi

CLARENCE TRIGGS was a bricklayer who had attended civil rights meetings sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality. He was found dead on a roadside, shot through the head.

JULY 30, 1966

Bogalusa, Louisiana

1967

WHARLEST JACKSON, the treasurer of his local NAACP chapter, was one of many blacks who received threatening Klan notices at his job. After Jackson was promoted to a position previously reserved for whites, a bomb was planted in his car. It exploded minutes after he left work one day, killing him instantly.

FEBRUARY 27, 1967

Natchez, Mississippi

BENJAMIN BROWN, a former civil rights organizer, was watching a student protest from the sidelines when he was hit by stray gunshots from police who fired into the crowd.

MAY 12, 1967

Jackson, Mississippi

OCTOBER 2, 1967

THURGOOD MARSHALL SWORN IN AS FIRST BLACK SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

1968

SAMUEL EPHESIANS HAMMOND JR., DELANO HERMAN MIDDLETON and HENRY EZEKIAL SMITH were shot and killed by police who fired on student demonstrators at the South Carolina State College campus.

FEBRUARY 8, 1968

Orangeburg, South Carolina

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., a Baptist minister, was a major architect of the civil rights movement. He led and inspired major non-violent desegregation campaigns, including those in Montgomery and Birmingham. He won the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated as he prepared to lead a demonstration in Memphis.

APRIL 4, 1968

Memphis, Tennessee