SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
400 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104
www.splcenter.org • www.tolerance.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Southern Poverty
Law Center

SPLC REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
MONITORING HATE • TEACHING TOLERANCE • SEEKING JUSTICE

DECEMBER 2005
VOLUME 35, NUMBER 4

Lawsuit seeks damages for injured man

LINDEN, TEX. — Center attorneys in September filed a lawsuit seeking damages for Billy Ray Johnson, a mentally disabled black man knocked unconscious and left on a roadside by four young white men.

Johnson, 42 at the time of the incident, had the mental capacity of a 12-year-old. On September 28, 2003, he was brought to a "pasture party" to serve as the night's entertainment. Pickups were backed up to a bonfire as partygoers taunted Johnson. They got him to dance a jig around the fire, and someone tried to get him to pick up a burning log, witnesses said.

One of the young men punched Johnson in the head and knocked him unconscious. Instead of taking Johnson to the hospital, the men dumped him into the back of a pickup truck and left him by the side of a remote rural road.

Johnson suffered serious brain injuries, and he'll never fully recover. But the Cass County, Texas, juries that heard the cases against two of the defendants, Christopher Colt Amox, who was 20 at the time of the assault, and James Cory Hicks, then 24, acquitted them of serious felony charges and instead handed down lesser convictions, with a recommended sentence of probation.

The two other defendants, Dallas Chadwick Stone, then 18, and John Wesley Owens, then 19, were allowed to plead guilty to an "injury to a disabled individual by omission" (continued on page 3)

SPECIAL

James Cory Hicks

Dallas Chadwick Stone

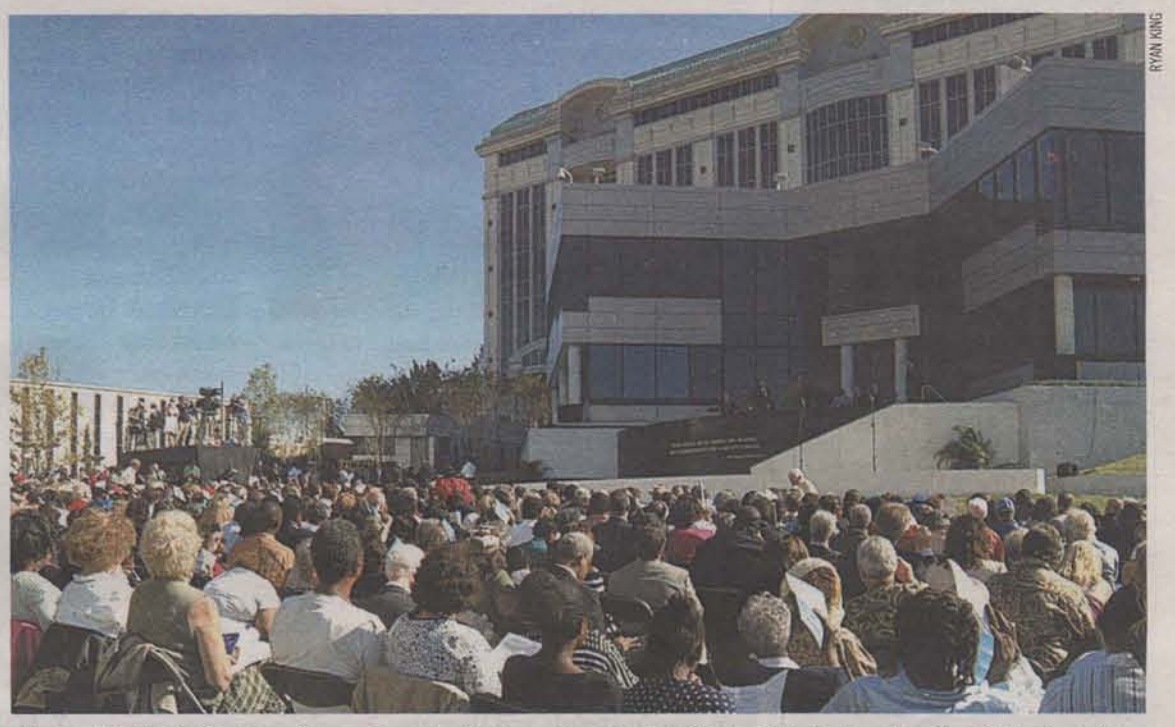
Christopher Colt Amox

John Wesley Owens

SPECIAL

Billy Ray Johnson lies unconscious in a roadside patch of weeds in this law enforcement photograph.

RYAN KING



The top of the Civil Rights Memorial served as a stage for those who spoke at the October 23 dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial Center and Wall of Tolerance.

Thousands celebrate opening of Civil Rights Memorial Center

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Thousands gathered here on October 23 to celebrate the dedication of the new Civil Rights Memorial Center and the Wall of Tolerance housed in it.

"Fifty years ago, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat just a few blocks away from where we are today," said Center cofounder Morris Dees in his welcoming remarks. "You've come from throughout the United States to be a part of the march that she started.

"Your placement of your name on the Wall of Tolerance shows the march for justice continues," he said.

In 1989, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) dedicated the Civil Rights Memorial. Designed by Maya Lin, the black granite monument honors those who died in the Civil Rights Movement and chronicles the history they propelled. The Memorial's flowing water connects the past with the unfinished dream of justice for all.

The Civil Rights Memorial Center (CRMC) allows visitors to deepen their understanding of the Movement, the sacrifices of the period and the struggles that lie ahead. The facility contains a classroom where students are challenged to consider their personal responsibility to work for justice.

Before leaving the CRMC, visitors can make a public commitment to ideals of the Civil Rights Movement by pledging to work for justice in their daily lives and adding their name to the Wall of Tolerance.

Greeting the crowd, gathered under bright sunshine and a brilliant blue sky, was Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright. "It is a distinct privilege to be here to see this fine facility in the city of Montgomery. It will educate many people in the years to come," he said.

Julian Bond hosted ceremony

NAACP chairman Julian Bond, greeted with a standing ovation as he was introduced, served as host for the dedication ceremony. He described his longtime relationship with the SPLC — he was its first president and serves on its board of directors today — and praised those who contribute to its work.

"Without your support, the new Civil Rights Memorial Center and the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center would not be possible," Bond said.

Jerry Mitchell, a reporter for *The* [Jackson, Miss.] *Clarion Ledger*, said the Memorial, in chronicling the deaths of 40 martyrs, became an instrument of justice. "The Memorial and the [SPLC] book *Free At Last* became a roadmap for me to begin my journey into the investigation of the Civil Rights Movement murders," he said.

Mitchell's investigative reports led to the convictions of at least six killers who had walked free for years.

"The Memorial and that book helped ensure those killers would not go unpunished," he said.

"This event is about honoring heroes," said U. S. Congressman Artur Davis (D-Ala.), who was the dedication's keynote speaker. Davis, a lawyer, began his career in 1992 as a SPLC intern.

"It has been the lot of our country that the bravest of us have laid down their lives, some anonymously, some in full view of the world," Davis said. "All share courage and are heroes. That's what we honor today."

He urged everyone to consider "the enduring power of people who are willing to take a stand."

"Each of us is a ripple, and together we are all a mighty stream," said Bond in his closing remarks.

For more about the dedication, see the special guide inside.

SPLC REPORT

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 4

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER DECEMBER 2005

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include Teaching Tolerance, Tolerance.org and the Intelligence Project. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which celebrates the memory of individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

SPLC REPORT EDITOR
Penny Weaver

Southern Poverty Law Center
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
James McElroy, CHAIR
Julian Bond
Patricia Clark
Lloyd Hackley
Joseph J. Levin Jr.
Howard Mandell
David I. J. Wang

FOUNDER & CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL
Morris Dees

FOUNDER & GENERAL COUNSEL
Joseph J. Levin Jr.

PRESIDENT & CEO
J. Richard Cohen

SENIOR ADVISER FOR STRATEGIC AFFAIRS
Jennifer Holladay

LEGAL DIRECTOR
Rhonda Brownstein

INTELLIGENCE PROJECT DIRECTOR
Mark Potok

TEACHING TOLERANCE DIRECTOR
Pat Boland

DESIGN DIRECTOR
Russell Estes

WEB PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
Ryan King

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
Sam Whalum

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
Teenie Hutchison

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Jeff Blancett

We welcome letters from all Southern Poverty Law Center supporters. Send your comments and suggestions to: Editor, *SPLC Report*, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery AL 36104 or fax to 334-956-8491. Send e-mail to splcreport@splcenter.org. All letters are assumed to be intended for publication unless otherwise noted.

© 2005 Southern Poverty Law Center, Inc. No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced by any means without permission. All rights reserved. Printed on recycled paper in the USA.

Photos by Penny Weaver unless otherwise noted.

MAILBOX

Teaching Tolerance resources 'inspire and support' teachers

Natalie Buhl, an English teacher at West De Pere High School in De Pere, Wisconsin, recently wrote Center president Richard Cohen. Her letter is reprinted below.

I just received a package today from Teaching Tolerance that contains the *One Survivor Remembers* teaching materials. Having briefly browsed through the materials, I cannot express to you how impressed I am with their thoroughness.

CONTRIBUTED

Natalie Buhl

For several years I have been using Teaching Tolerance resources in my classroom. Many of your ideas fit well into my high school English classes, and I am constantly passing on information to other teachers and different departments in our district. I also receive the free magazine and often use stories or inspiration from that in my lessons as well.

I am constantly amazed by not only the depth and quality of information and materials you offer, but also by the fact that it is free! What a wonderful word for teachers who are often restrained by budgets.

Your ongoing work is much appreciated in my classroom, and I am sure other teachers are helped by it as much as I am. Thank you so much for all the work you do to inspire and support teachers as we strive to inspire and support students.

I teach alternative education and I am a literacy coach. I have seen your materials and they are far superior to anything I have paid for in the past.

S. A.
Kennewick, Washington

Thanks for all the great work with the Wall of Tolerance, your anti-hate work, for starting and operating the very powerful Southern Poverty Law Center and for honoring the mother of the Civil Rights Movement (Mrs. Rosa Parks). Thank you, too, for giving me the opportunity to be a small part of some of this outstanding, great and ambitious work. Please keep up this most beneficial and very necessary work.

M. R.
Seattle, Washington

I just received *One Survivor Remembers* and I am amazed at the quality of this teaching kit. Thank you so much to your organization for making this available to teachers at no cost! I am truly thankful and look forward to using it with my students. I can already see that the resources it provides will help them in coming to a more personal understanding of the Holocaust and issues of tolerance.

B. M.
Coral Springs, Florida

Today on the 50th anniversary of the day that Rosa Parks refused to give up he seat on the bus, I showed all my students your video on Rosa Parks. The students were mesmerized, at least half of them didn't know who Rosa Parks was and the impact her actions had on American history. Thank you for a wonderful vehicle to present to my students.

Z. M.
Downingtown, Pennsylvania

I just received my "One World" poster set in the mail and am overwhelmed by the beauty of the images and the words in combination. I am already excited and anticipating where I will post them all. They are definitely of a quality to be framed and made part of a permanent, artistic display to convey a message that we strive to teach our students here on a daily basis. Thank you so much for your continuous efforts to keep all of us aware and striving for tolerance and peace.

V. W.
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Thank you for the amazing resources that you have provided to me and my school over the last couple of years. I regularly use these materials to supplement history and often provide a different perspective than traditional text. I cannot express how exceptional and needed these materials are and that you provide them for free is incredible.

S. S.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Your work is inspiring on all levels, and most certainly of the utmost importance. Racism, prejudice and the inequalities that plague our society may never be completely eradicated, but the battles we fight today and tomorrow will never be in vain.

M.K.
Orange, California

RANDALL WILLIAMS

Bobby Person and his family outside their North Carolina home in 1983

Center client receives award for advocacy

A Center client whose case led to the downfall of two of the nation's most militant Klan leaders has been honored with a prestigious award.

Bobby Person was one of five recipients of the 20th annual Nancy Susan Reynolds Award from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Given to North Carolina residents working to improve their communities, the awards are worth $25,000 — with $20,000 going to a North Carolina nonprofit organization of the winner's choosing and $5,000 given to the winner for personal use.

The awards were presented November 19 at a luncheon in Greensboro.

Person and Hilton Dunlap, both of the West End community in Moore County, won for advocacy. The two men, both retired prison guards, created a grassroots nonprofit organization, Voices for Justice, which fights racism.

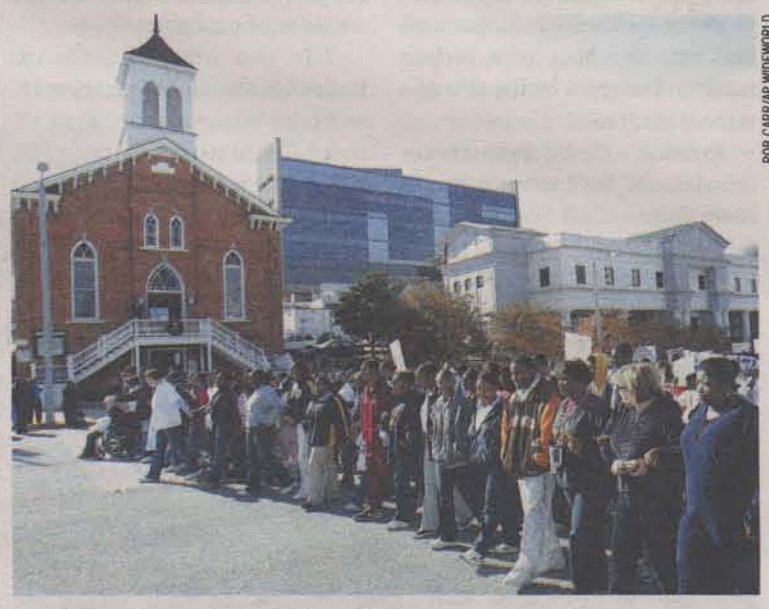
They are currently working to get water and sewer services for five poor, predominantly black communities systematically excluded from basic services, such as water, sewer and police protection, as affluent white communities annexed areas up to and around these neighborhoods. Person and Dunlap have brought the communities together, obtained national publicity and put pressure on adjacent municipalities, like Pinehurst — site of last summer's U.S. Open golf tournament — to annex them and provide needed services.

Other award recipients were two Raleigh women who live and work with poor inner-city children and an Asheville woman who promotes teaching diversity.

In 1983, Person never dreamed that trying to win a promotion at the prison where he worked would result in the convictions of militant Klan leader Glenn Miller and his second-in-command, Stephen Miller, and the destruction of the Klan in North Carolina.

The Millers' Klan group terrorized Person and his family in an attempt to force him to give up his discrimination suit against the Department of Corrections. Instead of quitting, Person asked for help from the Southern Poverty Law Center. His struggle ultimately led to the banning of the Klan's paramilitary operations and a court order mandating that the Millers, who are not related, sever all ties with the group.

"Bobby Person is a courageous example of how one man, unwilling to submit to injustice, can make a real difference," said Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees, who handled Person's lawsuit.



ROB CARR/AP WIDEWORLD

Walk celebrates Boycott anniversary

Thousands of Montgomery students walk past the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church on December 1, on their way to the state capitol to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The Center, which sponsored the event, is one block behind the church and its windows overlook the scene.

Report documents police deaths at hands of right-wing extremists

In October, the Center's quarterly magazine, *Intelligence Report*, published "End of Watch." The article documents the tragic stories of 15 law enforcement officers who have been killed at the hands of right-wing extremists since the Oklahoma City bombing took place more than a decade ago.

The piece is a tribute to law enforcement officers who lost their lives fighting against domestic terrorists. This report, like the *Intelligence Report*'s publication this past summer of descriptions of nearly 60 domestic terrorist plots that have taken place or been foiled by law enforcement since Oklahoma City, serves as a reminder of the terrible toll domestic terrorism exacts.

Each of the officer's profiles is a study in courage. Dennis Finch, a 52-year-old sergeant from Traverse City, Mich., was trying to talk an armed and paranoid extremist named John Clark into putting down his weapon in 1998. Clark ended the discussion with gunfire, and Finch died of his wounds the next day. Finch's widow, Agnes, told the *Intelligence Report* that she still struggles with her grief, and her anger.

"You took my dream for a retirement with my husband," she told Clark, who was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. "I have to find a way to build a new life now without the man I've known and depended on for 33 years."

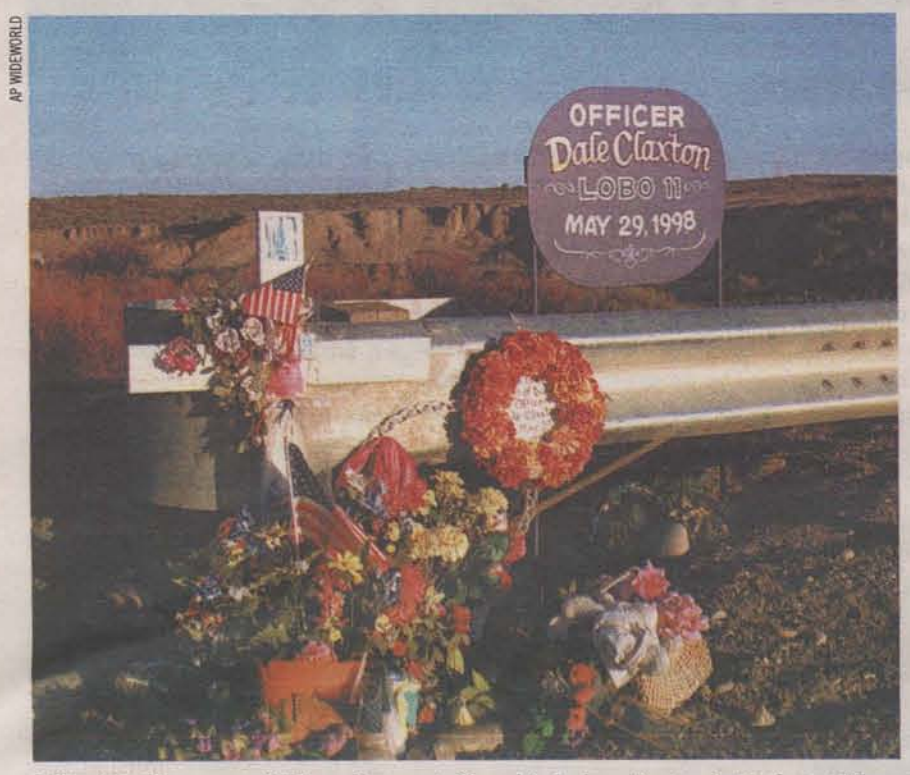
David Mobilio, a 31-year-old police officer in Red Bluff, Calif., was known for his bear-like physique and love of practical jokes, as well as his popularity with the elementary school children he would educate on the dangers of drugs. Mobilio was killed at random by a disturbed college student, Andrew Mickel, who ambushed Mobilio at a gas station.

Mickel later bragged about the killing on the Internet. He had hoped that killing a cop would provide a platform for his anti-government political views. Red Bluff Police Chief Al Shamblin says breaking the news to Mobilio's wife "was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do."

Kevin Marshall, 33, was attempting to serve a warrant for sexual misconduct on Scott Woodring when Marshall was killed in 2003. Woodring, a member of the Michigan Militia and former follower of Christian Identity pastor James Wickstrom, had barricaded himself inside his home. Marshall led a team of emergency response officers who entered the home on the second day of the standoff in an attempt to bring Woodring into custody. Woodring shot Marshall in the hand and back, escaped and eluded capture for a week before he was found and killed in a confrontation with police.

Law enforcement officials have received "End of Watch" enthusiastically, requesting multiple copies. Ken Wallentine, chief of Law Enforcement Services for the Utah Attorney General, praised the *Report* for acknowledging "that the battle against hate includes law enforcement officers among the victims."

AP WIDEWORLD



Officer Dale Claxton, one of 15 law enforcement officers slain by domestic extremists in the past 10 years, is memorialized outside Cortez, Colorado, on the lonely highway where he was gunned down by three survivalists in 1998.

Lawsuit seeks damages for injured man

(continued from page 1) charge and testified against Amox and Hicks.

A judge in May sentenced Owens, Stone and Amox to 30-day terms in the county jail and Hicks to 60 days.

"It's hard to think what should make your blood boil more — what happened to Billy Ray or what didn't happen to those who abused him," said Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees. "It's something we can't ignore."

The lawsuit, filed in Cass County District Court here, alleges that the four defendants, plus Lacy Dorgan, the girlfriend of one of them who was present during the party, are liable for assault and negligence, among other things, in the case.

Johnson, who had no criminal background or history of violence or trouble of any kind, lived with his mother and brother before the assault. Now he is in a Texarkana nursing home with permanent brain damage. He tells visitors that he wants to go home, but that's not possible without costly special assistance.

Owens was the host of the party, which was held on his father's property. He picked up Johnson at a nearby convenience store and drove him to the gathering.

Hicks was a Cass County jailer at the time of the incident. He encouraged others at the party to hit Johnson and later discouraged the others from getting the unconscious victim medical attention. Stone told Johnson to leave the party before the "KKK comes and gets you," according to court testimony.

Amox punched Johnson in the face, knocking him to the ground unconscious. Just before Amox slugged Johnson, Stone knocked a beer can out of Johnson's hand and urged Amox to hit him, witnesses said.

Rather than use their cell phones to call for an ambulance or take Johnson immediately to a hospital, the partygoers drank beer and debated what to do with him. After an hour or so, they put him in the back of a truck to keep from getting his blood on the cloth seats of a car and deposited his body on the side of the road.

"Rarely in my 45 years as a civil rights lawyer have I been so angry about an injustice as I am about what happened to Billy Ray Johnson," Dees said.

Intelligence Briefs

tracking extremist activity

Neo-Nazis use stock footage as propaganda

OCALA, FLA. — A white supremacist organization's recent use of stock footage purchased from a Florida company in a 30-second commercial may be in violation of its user agreement.

The videotaped spot features images of attractive white people as they go about their daily routines, accompanied by the reassuring voice of a male narrator. "There's a growing feeling in white America that something is missing. What happened to us?" the voiceover asks. "Where can white Americans go to understand the changing world around us?"

The ad was created in April as propaganda for a website called National Vanguard that was run by neo-Nazi Kevin Strom and the National Alliance, America's best-known neo-Nazi group. When Strom quit the Alliance, he hijacked the website and the ad. Today, Strom uses the ad to promote his new neo-Nazi group, National Vanguard.

Almost all of the images in the film, including those of nine actors, came from stock footage outlet Digital Juice and were used in apparent violation of its end user agreement, which says images may not be used in a "defamatory" or "scandalous" manner.

Extremists have also used stock photos from services such as istock.com and used them in a prohibited manner. Istock.com has written to white supremacist organizations, such as the Council of Conservative Citizens, demanding that their photos be taken down from the groups' websites.

Jewish Defense League principal murdered in penitentiary

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — A key member of the racist Jewish Defense League (JDL), serving time for a 2001 plot to bomb a California mosque and the office of a Lebanese-American congressman, was killed in a Nov. 4 assault at a federal prison here.

The killing, reportedly carried out by an inmate who struck Earl Krugel on the head with a cement block, came three years to the day after JDL leader Irv Rubin, imprisoned in the same plot, allegedly committed suicide while in federal detention. His family and the JDL have said they believe Rubin was murdered.

The JDL issued a press release immediately after Krugel's death, suggesting an Islamic or even government conspiracy to murder Jewish activists.

Both Rubin and Krugel were implicated in a plot to bomb the King Fahd Mosque in Culver City, Calif., and an office of Republican Congressman Darrell Issa. Rubin died in 2002, before going to trial. Krugel pleaded guilty the next year to conspiracy and explosives charges and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Founded in 1968, the JDL has a long track record of political violence and anti-Arab hatred. Given Krugel's role in the JDL, it would be extraordinary if prison officials failed to segregate him from the rest of the prison population. Krugel, 62, was killed just three days after he arrived at the Phoenix penitentiary.

Justice Department moving to smash tax scams

LAS VEGAS, NEV. — October was a banner month for the Department of Justice's efforts to destroy illegal tax-avoidance scams, a four-year endeavor that has led to arrests and injunctions against more than 100 anti-tax crusaders.

One of the biggest victories for the agency came with the October conviction of Irwin Schiff, a veteran anti-tax crusader blamed for the loss of $56 million in federal taxes, on charges of conspiracy, tax evasion and tax fraud. Schiff, 77, peddled the idea that Americans don't need to pay income taxes for decades through his books and seminars. He now faces up to 43 years in prison and $3.25 million in fines.

Major neo-Nazi Skinhead summit held in Ohio

LOGAN, OHIO — A landmark neo-Nazi Skinhead summit attended by the leaders of more than a dozen Skinhead gangs from at least eight different states took place Oct. 22. Dubbed "The Blood and Honour Council," the summit represented the first unified attempt by skinhead groups to challenge the authority of the Hammerskins, a nationwide skinhead syndicate that has asserted dominion over U.S. skins since 1988.

Besides Skinhead gang leaders, the Blood and Honour Council consisted of representatives from several hate rock music companies as well as the neo-Nazi National Alliance and the Imperial Klans of America. According to minutes distributed online, the Skinhead leaders forged a precedent-setting bond with the National Alliance. "The participants in the regional skinhead groups intend to work through the National Alliance in their regions as a political outlet," the minutes stated.

Millions take part in 4th annual Mix It Up

SWEETWATER, TEX. — When 350 intermediate students Mixed It Up here, spirits rose as high as their red, white and blue helium balloons

"That's what I love about 4th- and 5th-graders," said school counselor and Mix It Up at Lunch Day facilitator Melissa Howard. "They are still so into everything.

In 2005, the number of participants also rose — dramatically. Across the nation on November 15, more than 6 million students at more than 15,000 schools took part in the fourth Mix It Up at Lunch Day. That's a 50 percent increase from 2004, when 4 million students took part nationwide.

Mix It Up, part of the Center's Teaching Tolerance program, asks students to swap seats in the school cafeteria — one of the most self-segregating settings in the nation. Football players sit with football players; cheerleaders, with cheerleaders. Band members at the table in the corner. Goths at one table; Spanish-speaking immigrant students at another.

Consider how a high school senior from Phoenix described her school cafeteria on this year's Mix It Up at Lunch Day: "That section over there is where the jocks usually sit, and this part by the benches is where the skaters are, and then the gangs are all along the walls."

A 9th-grader from Oregon took part in a discussion about school cliques on Mix It Up at Lunch Day and came away with a deeper understanding.

"I learned they (various school cliques) don't really talk to each other," she said. "It's important to get groups to mingle. In the real world, you have to mingle whether you want to or not."

On Mix It Up Day, clearly, some do not.

In Philadelphia, one high school student called it "annoying." In Florida, one student called it "childish," labeling participants "losers."

BRUNO AT HOLLY KUPER PHOTOGRAPHY

Fourth- and 5th-graders in Sweetwater, Texas, embrace the spirit of Mix It Up.

"The resistance is a clear sign of why the program is so important," said Tafeni English, director of the Mix It Up program. "Mix It Up is about social boundaries, and those boundaries don't dissolve in a single day or a single moment. But every time we get some students talking and thinking about the boundaries, we're taking steps in the right direction."

While Mix It Up at Lunch Day has a single-day focus, the overall Mix It Up program encourages boundary-breaking activities throughout the year.

The program offers guidelines for activities before and after the day, with a grants program to help support such efforts. In partnership with the Study Circles Resource Center, Mix It Up also offers guidelines for creating formal Mix It Up Dialogue Groups at any school.

A high school senior from Philadelphia, participating in Mix It Up for the first time, clearly identifies the need for such a sustained effort.

"People are afraid that the differences outweigh similarities," he said. "It's a misguided view but, sadly, people believe it."

Learn more about Mix It Up at www.mixitup.org

SUSAN WERNER

Gerda Weissmann Klein (front row center) joins Teaching Tolerance curriculum specialist Jeff Sapp (front row holding kit) at Chapman University's I-TEACH gathering.

One Survivor Remembers helps teachers

ORANGE, CALIF. — The Center's newest curriculum kit, *One Survivor Remembers*, had its teaching debut in November. Teaching Tolerance curriculum specialist Jeff Sapp was asked by Project I-TEACH to introduce the kit to 60 educators.

Project I-TEACH — in the School of Education at Chapman University here — aims to increase the number of fully credentialed, culturally and linguistically diverse teachers in high-needs areas of Orange County.

After dividing the group into teams of six, Sapp distributed Primary Documents packets to each table. The packets — part of every *One Survivor Remembers* kit — include maps, postcards, letters, photos and other documents from Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein's personal files. Using the documents, Sapp told Klein's story as a teenager during the Holocaust, personalizing and humanizing her history.

In one photograph, taken as a gift for her parents, Gerda and her brother, Artur, are dressed in fancy clothes. Gerda wore her beret sideways, a choice her mother deemed "too coquettish." Holding up that photograph, Sapp asked the 60 teachers if it reminded them of any stories from their own lives.

"Oh, I got into trouble in a school photo once," one said. "My mother always told me to wear my hair in front of my ears, and I had put my hair behind my ears. My mother thought it was inappropriate for a young girl."

Another student told of the time he went to get new glasses and his mother told him not to get those "new wire-framed hippie-looking glasses." When he came home with them anyway, she was furious. "The whole family still laughs at that 8th-grade photo," he said.

Sapp urged the teachers to ask their own students for similar stories when they use the kit in class, helping young people make a personal connection to Klein's story.

"With this personal connection, they feel connected to the life of Gerda Weissmann Klein," Sapp said. "The Holocaust becomes more real for them."

The lesson became more real for the I-TEACH students as well, when Gerda Weissmann Klein stood up from the back of the room to introduce herself. She had flown in to be part of the Center's first public presentation of the kit.

Students gave her a standing ovation as she came to the front of the room. Gerda shared her joy in having the kit available, at no cost, to teachers across the nation. "Now I share with you the responsibility of remembering," she said.

The students aren't likely to forget.

"Thank you so much for such an unforgettable experience," Steven Picht wrote to the Center following the event. "Getting to meet Gerda Weissmann Klein was something that I'll remember forever, and to be honest, I arrived home on Saturday afternoon totally overwhelmed and anxious to talk with everyone about it."

Student Jen Borrell expressed what many felt: "I feel blessed to have been in the presence of Gerda and her remarkable story. Thank you for sharing her with us."

One Survivor Remembers has become the fastest-moving curriculum kit that Teaching Tolerance has produced. In first 90 days after its release, the Center has received more than 35,000 orders.

Jeff Sapp will be speaking with Gerda Weissmann Klein again in March at the McDougal Littell Middle School Leadership Conference in Las Vegas. Klein will be the keynote speaker there, and Sapp will be making a presentation of the kit to more than 75 influential curriculum leaders.

New report reveals higher numbers of hate crimes

The real number of hate crimes in the United States is more than 15 times higher than FBI statistics reflect, according to a stunning new government report.

Hate crime statistics published by the FBI since 1992, based on voluntary reports from law enforcement agencies around the country, have shown annual totals of about 8,000 to 12,000, depending on the year. But the new report, "Hate Crimes Reported by Victims and Police," found an average annual total of 191,000 hate crimes. That means the real level of hate crime runs between 16 and 23 times higher than the numbers that have been officially reported for almost 15 years.

"It's an astounding report," said Jack Levin, a leading hate crime expert at Northeastern University. "It's not necessarily completely accurate, but I would trust these data before I trusted the voluntary law enforcement reports to the FBI."

The new report, compiled by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and published in November, was based on an analysis of three-and-a-half years of detailed survey data from the biannual National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS raw data comes from interviews with almost 80,000 statistically representative people and is the most accurate crime survey extant.

The report, which inferred hate motivation from the words and symbols used by the offender, found that just 44 percent of hate crimes are reported to police. Other hate crimes don't make it into FBI statistics for an array of reasons: police may fail to record some as hate crimes; their departments may not report hate crime statistics to state officials; and those officials may not accurately report to the FBI.

According to the new report, hate crimes involve violence far more often than other crimes. The data showed 84 percent of hate crimes were violent, meaning they involved a sexual attack, robbery, assault or murder. By contrast, just 23 percent of non-hate crimes involved violence. Other studies have suggested that hate-motivated violence, especially against homosexuals, is more extreme than other violence.

The report also showed that 56 percent of hate crime victims identified race as the primary factor in the crimes they reported. Ethnicity accounted for another 29 percent of the total. Hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation were 18 percent of the total. Given that the best studies indicate about 3 percent of the American population is homosexual, this means that gays and lesbians are victimized at six times the overall rate.

"We've believed for years that the number of hate crimes in America was vastly under-reported," said Mark Potok, director of the Center's Intelligence Project. "This report shows that we were right, and this is a major problem for our country."

CONTRIBUTED

Teaching Tolerance director Pat Boland tells more than 3,000 California teachers about the free resources offered by the Center.

California teachers receive encouragement from Dees

CORONA, CALIF. — Five months after a high school student here was killed in a racially motivated attack off campus, Center co-founder Morris Dees came to the area and told thousands of educators that they had a pivotal role in teaching children about tolerance.

He said that the "keys to the gates of opportunity and justice" were in their hands, reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

"Your job as educators is to build a community in our schools that represents inclusion," Dees said. "We've been able as a nation to overcome, because we've had dedicated educators such as yourselves who have devoted their lives to helping others and educating young people in this country."

Dees spoke October 5 to more than 3,000 teachers, administrators and staff of the Corona-Norco Unified School District at a church in Corona. Also addressing the group were Teaching Tolerance director Pat Boland and Mix It Up director Tafeni English. Their presentations came after a series of racially charged incidents involving students in regional high schools there in the last two years.

The most violent occurred in May, when 15-year-old Centennial High School student Dominic Redd, who was black, was killed while walking home from school. His alleged assailants were three Latino gang members who yelled racial slurs as they stabbed him.

Since 2003, other incidents included the beating of two black students by four white students at Murrieta Valley High School; a fight among 200 students at Temescal Canyon High School in Lake Elsinore, which was triggered by racial slurs; and a racially motivated fight at Centennial High in March.

Dees was invited to speak by former Corona Councilman Jeff Bennett. He and his wife, Nan Eisley-Bennett, are longtime supporters of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Every child should be exposed to tolerance and diversity," Eisley-Bennett said. "Perhaps if it happened more frequently, we wouldn't have racial hatred and violence."

Dees said that the changing racial dynamics of the area may be triggering some of the incidents. Reported hate crimes grew nearly 20 percent in Riverside and San Bernardino counties in 2003, while declining statewide 10 percent, according to the *Los Angeles Times* story.

"The demographic and racial makeup of this county are changing," Dees said. "With that change comes fear, and many times hate crimes. You're not alone. Hate crimes are happening all over the United States."

Tim Pike, assistant superintendent of student services, said the district planned to incorporate elements of the Center's Teaching Tolerance program.

"Tensions occur on every high school campus in this country," he said. "Our goal in the district is to make sure we do the types of things we need to do so we don't develop real serious issues."

Law students inspired by immigrant work

For Annie Smith, some of the most rewarding legal work she has done took place on the side of a road.

"When you're in a car at 10 at night, with a printer plugged into the car's cigarette lighter and printing out pages of an affidavit for a client to sign," said Smith, "that's where the real work happens."

Smith, a third year law student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, along with Jennifer Podkul, who attends the Washington College of Law at American University, were summer interns with the Center's Immigrant Justice Project (IJP). Established in November 2004, the project works to ensure that the rights of immigrant workers are protected in nine Southeastern states.

Annie Smith (left) and Jennifer Podkul and the maps they used doing summer outreach

Smith, who spent two high school summers living in Mexico and Ecuador, said her work with the IJP confirmed her desire to work on behalf of under-served populations.

"Last summer, I worked with the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project, a legal advocacy organization in Florida," said Smith. "To participate this summer in the IJP work was a continuation of my interest in Latino immigration issues."

Like her colleague, Podkul felt rewarded by the out-of-office work she did.

"We would go out at night to talk to these workers to figure out what's going on," said Podkul. "When you're actually talking to your clients in the field, you feel a lot more connected to the work."

Podkul, who spent two years in Honduras working with the Peace Corps, said her work at the Center has given her a unique perspective.

"My goal is to keep working with immigrant populations in the U.S. In the Peace Corps, I worked in a community where a lot of people were leaving to work in the U.S. and I saw how hard it was to get here. At the Center, I've seen how hard the conditions are for the workers once they are here. I've been able to see what it is like on both sides of the border," said Podkul.

While at the Center, Smith and Podkul worked on a variety of issues. Smith spent the bulk of the summer researching the legislative history of workers' exclusion from legal protections as well as interviewing potential clients. In addition to interviewing potential clients, Podkul wrote a legal memo and performed legal research for Center attorneys.

Arkansas woman partakes in all weekend activities

Imogene Moore Scott stood at the top of the steps at Alabama's state capitol and thought how far the civil rights movement had come in 50 years.

"I wanted to climb and stand at the top of those steps and look out across the city of Montgomery, just because I could," she said.

Moore's climb was among the last stops in a pilgrimage that took her from her home in Texarkana, Ark., to Montgomery. Moore came for the dedication of the new Civil Rights Memorial Center and stayed to take in the entire city. She attended nearly every event offered to visitors during the three-day dedication weekend.

TEXARKANA GAZETTE

Imogene Moore Scott points to a mural she saw in Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church while in Montgomery for the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial Center.

Her journey began October 20 when she boarded a bus for Montgomery. As she got on, she was struck by the fact that she could sit where she pleased, in part because of Rosa Parks' efforts 50 years earlier.

After arriving the following morning, Scott rested only briefly before heading to the Civil Rights Memorial Center — the reason for her visit.

From there, she headed to the Rosa Parks Museum and the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pastored from 1954 to 1960. One of the most moving events of her weekend came when she saw the church's mural, which illustrates important figures and events in the Civil Rights Movement.

"It is one of those things where you say, 'You have to see it for yourself to believe it,'" Scott said.

That night, Scott had the opportunity to hear Dr. James Forbes, the minister at historic Riverside Church in New York City, speak. His words, she said, "could strip the bark off a tree."

Despite a busy day Friday, Scott, a retired community college administrator, did not slow down on Saturday. She attended showings of two of the Center's Oscar-nominated films, *Mighty Times: The Rosa Parks Story* and *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, which won an Oscar earlier this year.

That evening, she attended another movie, *The Laramie Project*, at a screening sponsored by the Center. The movie, about the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, exemplified for Scott the kind of work the Center does.

"That's the kind of thing the Center does," she said, "white or black."

While Friday and Saturday were filled with meaningful events, it was the actual dedication ceremony that proved to be the highlight of Scott's trip. Hearing NAACP board chairman Julian Bond, who is also a Center board member, was something she will never forget.

"He had started in the Civil Rights Movement as a young man and has remained a very important figure throughout the past 50 years," Scott said. "He's never let up."

After the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial Center and the Wall of Tolerance, Scott headed to the state Capitol, where she took the time to think about how remarkable it was for her to be there.

"Here I was, in the middle of the night," said Scott, "a black stranger from Texarkana, standing on the top steps of the capitol. It sure felt good."

TRIBUTE GIFTS RECEIVED BY THE CENTER FROM SEPTEMBER 2005 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2005

IN HONOR OF

Mrs. Bruce N. Barber
Jeni & Jesse Baskin
Kit Basom
Boris & Jane Bauer
Jerry Beckerman
Emily Behrendt
April McGreger & Philip Blank
Lyndall Boal
Al & Eileen Bronstein
Catherine Brooks
Wesley Browning
Clifton & Dolores Bullard
Dylan J. Byer
Amy Jackendoff & Tom Chang
Tabitha M. Croscut, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Deppe
Dan Downey
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Ente
John and Marion Exter
Kahn-Samuelson Family
Charlotte Finn
Doris Fisher
Leah Friedman
Gerry B. Garber
Dan Gerron
Dorothy E. Gilman
Judy Glockner
The Gomez Family
Donald E. Griesel
Stephen & Joanie Grossman
Lawrence K. Hall
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Hall
James & Deloris Heard
Potter Herndon
Marian Herzog
Elizabeth M. Holsten
Natalie A. Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Isaacson
Jeffrey Israel
Benjamin Itzkowitz
Norma Kamen
Edie Karlin
Debra Kassoff
Harriet L. & Ben Kaufman
Madeline Kepner
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Kolouch
Robert & Phyllis Krechevsky
Sam Leber
Judy Lee
Guy A. Leemhuis
Sidney Levine
Jody & Greg Levitt
Lynn Loeb
Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Luskin
Roz Marcus
Paul B. Martin
Luis Maza
Jim McCafferty
Timothy McCarthy, Esq.
Barbara J. Meislin
Linda Mevorach
Hilda Miwa
Dean Neuwirth
Joan Nickolaisen
Janet O'Brien
Dorothy Phillips
William J. Pierson
Ralph C. Pino
Wendy Pologe
Juliette Porges
Ms. D. Robinson
Paul Rosenblatt
Denis Royston
Judy G. Rubin
Maxine & Philip Russakoff
Gloria Schimmel
Margot Shandoff
Judith A. Smith
Stanley H. Spieler
Richard Standridge
David Sterneck
Mr. & Mrs. Jos Stone
Barbara Sugarman
Anne Sullivan
Edith Swapp
Amy Taylor & Sean Tanner
June Valley
Peggy Walsh
Jerry Washburn
Ruby Wasserman
John & Susie Wean
Lee Webb
Cullen R. Webster
Joan Raphael & Philip Weinstein
Daisy Berl & Neil Weiss
Kristopher Wilson
Jana Wolff
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Young
Mr. & Mrs. G. Zuckerman

IN MEMORY OF

Sylvia Abidor
Gerald Adler
Dorothy L. Allen
Fran Asher
Anna Auchter
Georgiana M. Baker
Helen M. Baker
Arpad J. Balla
Stephen Barker
Vera J. Bearg
Jim Beauchamp
Linda M. Becker
Charisse Bellew
Harris Berv
Maynee O. Betsch
Lula J. Blackman
Mary N. Boros
Bill Brayfield
Balfour Brickner
Robert Burnstein
Peter & Gretchen Byfield's Mother
Thomas N. Chavis
Leland Clark
Irving Cohan
Mr. Coles
James A. Cooke
Stella Cooper
Emil Copouya
Marsha Z. Cummins
Mildred Davy
John Decker's Mother
Caroline V. Doane
Mr. & Mrs. Harry P. Donnelly
Harvey Dreye
Harvey Duckor
Donald Durnbaugh
Dorothy P. East
Mary M. Eldridge
Rafael Entenzo
Helen N. Epstein
Abraham Factor
Marjorie Finkelstein
Heidi Finley
Morton Forrest
Helen Freeman
Larry Gaffin
Elmer B. Garrett
Marvin Ginsberg
Mary C. Glodt
Patricia Glosser's Mother
Laurie Goessl
Irene L. & James A. Golden
Harrison D. Goodman
Malcolm Gordon
Rita Gottsegen
Michael Graves
David E. Gray
Jean Gundel
David E. W. Hackett
Norma Hagler
Mary Hayden
Robert K. Hayes
Marie Haywood
David Hein
Judith Heintz
Frederick Herman
Max Hess
Lily Heuran
Louise F. Hewitt
James E. Hicks
Timothy E. Holmsten
Daniel Jacobs
Alice & Irving Jaffe
David Johnston
Markar Karakelian
Lucinda S. King
Leonard King
Genevieve Knupfer
Walter E. Kottas
Arline E. Lampinen
Ann H. Leheny
Doris W. Levin
Ruth Levine
Bennett Levy
Hal G. Lewis
Jack Lichtenstein
Ellen Lovell
Zelda Lowenstein
Joseph R. Maland
Alberta May-Koehler
Arnold Mendales
Bernard Meyer
Philip Minkin
Marilee Minor
Rebecca Mitchell
Aaron Mitrani
Talmadge L. Moore
Jack Morof
Madeline Mozee
Cathy Mundy
Jon H. Myer
Deirdre A. Myslis
Verdelle T. Northcross
Wayne L. O'Rear
Mary L. Palmer
Rosa Parks
Bette Jean Watson Payne
Pearl Persily
Lawrence Plotkin
Robert Ralston
Clementine A. Rardin
Michael Richard
Robert L. Roebuck
Edgar L. Rollins
Lynn Rollins
Daniel Rondberg
Betty Rosoff
Louis L. Rostov
Mary Ruddiman
Marguerite Russell
Meyer Samberg
Robert D. Samuelson
Yossi Schiff
Sarah Schiff
Ronald E. Schindler
Ted Schoenberg
Grace Schoenfeld
Howard Schwartz
Milton L. Schwartz
Rosalind Schwartz
Louis Selden
Mae Shapiro
Edytne Sherman
George N. Shuler
Roberta Sidel
Arthur Siegal
Scott L. Simmonds
Vivian Sincoff
Charles Smith
Marjorie Smith
Myra W. Snyder
William V. Sparks
Billie D. Sparks
Arnold Statsinger
Flora Tabachneck
Faye S. Tanack
Wil Tillman
Veronica L. Tinonga
Murray Weiss
Willard Wetzel
James Winshall
William G. Woodfin
Edmund P. Wortman

MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

The Center accepts gifts in memory of someone who has died or in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation. Donors may also give a gift just to say "thank you." The Center will send a card to the person honored or the family of the deceased. Complete this form and mail it with your contribution.

PLEASE PRINT

I am enclosing a special gift in the amount of $ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To celebrate his/her/their _____

SEND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GIFT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

INDICATE ON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GIFT IS BEING MADE BY:

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (in case of questions) _____

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER • P.O. BOX 548 • MONTGOMERY, AL 36101-0548 • (334)956-8200

Center receives bequest from Partner for the Future

A deep commitment to public service and social justice led Theodore W. Taylor to a distinguished career with the U.S. government and an 18-year partnership with the Center.

In a 40-year career in Washington, D.C., Taylor worked for the Navy's Bureau of Ships and was assistant to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The bulk of Taylor's career, however, was spent at the Interior Department where he served as deputy commissioner of Indian affairs. It was during his time there that he wrote four books on Indian policy.

CONTRIBUTED

Theodore W. Taylor

Taylor complemented his public service work with a dedication to social justice, a commitment that led him to support the Center, beginning with his first donation in 1987, and leading to his decision to become a "Partner for the Future." Partners are special donors who include the Center in their wills or estate plans, thereby extending their support for the Center's work beyond their lifetimes.

Taylor died March 12.

"Our dad had long been concerned about racial tolerance and economic justice," said his daughter Lynn Taylor Nelson. "We're thrilled that in his life and death he contributed to the Southern Poverty Law Center."

When he wasn't working in the office, Taylor turned his attention to his community. Although his status as a government employee prevented him from actively participating in party politics, he was an active civic leader.

In the 1950s, he served as president of the Arlington County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, at the same time the region was fighting over the integration of public schools. In that position, he eased the transition from segregated schools while encouraging every effort to defeat racist organizations that emerged in the community to exclude African-Americans from school social events.

In addition to his support for the Center, Taylor served as board chairman of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, to which he belonged since the 1940s. Nelson said the church allowed her father to participate in projects that he felt "upheld the value and dignity of each person."

Taylor also served as chairman of the Arlington County School Board and was a former chairman of Arlingtonians for a Better County. In his 80s, Taylor delivered food for "meals on wheels" and helped form the first retirement home in Arlington available to low-income residents.

Born in Berkeley, Calif., Taylor was raised in Tucson. He graduated from the University of Arizona and earned a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University and a doctorate in public administration from Harvard University.

Scroll of Remembrance

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of deceased supporters who included the Center in their Wills or other planned gifts. The Center gratefully acknowledges their bequests, received from November 1, 2004, through November 30, 2005.

Lillian M. Ackerman
Katherine Aisup
Alice W. Ames
Gertrude Aminoff
Kay Avery
Florence Borkey
David Bornblum
Renee Brand
Phyllis Browne
David Burt
Ralph F. Carl
Martha P. Carlton
Edith Carr
Virginia K. Chilewich
Alfred Clee
Richard C. Cornelison
Florence W. Deutsche
Benice Diamond
Evelyn Drayton
Elaine Dulsey
Shirley Dworsky
Terry Ehrich
Asher and Jeanne Ende
Ronald C. Force
Clare E. Freund
Harold Friedman
Mathilde Friedman
Katherine M. Gaillard
Robert L. Gay
Ruth A. Gelber
John C. Gerber
Goldine Gleser
Mildred M. Glocker
Rona Goffen
Susan Goldstein
Arthur J. Goodwin
Jill Graham
Marion S. Gray
Walter E. E. Green
Elliott S. Harris
Sandra Hoke
Mary C. Houghton
Ruth G. Houghton
Philip Hyman
Howard W. Johnston
Ronald M. Jourdan
Sadie Krieger
Barbara Leavitt
Ruth Leder
Augusta L. Levine
Susan B. Levy
Louise LeWald
Kathryn R. Lewis
James K. Lively
Madge G. Lorwin
Marjorie E. Lyford
Leonard Malek
Peggy Knight Malnar
Jean McDowell
Susanne Mock
Fair Monypenny
Rosita Nelson
John H. Niemeyer
Rose Niemeyer
Abraham F. and Sonia Osler
Ellen Pallme
E. Lucille Peterson
Henry C. Rickard
Elmer F. Riggs
Jane O. Robbins
Edward Roberts
Catherine A. Rockwood
Lester Rosenblatt
Charlotte H. Rosenwald
Eugene W. Rueckoldt
Ilse R. Salomon
Marion G. Sanchez
Estelle Schultz
Catherine A. Scott
Emerson N. Shaw
Samuel J. Silverstein
Sara Sklar
Samuel Smith
Theresa E. Smith
Ben M. Snyder
Helen F. Spaulding
Wilma F. Steel
Hilde Sweeney
Lillian Tarn
Robert and Maxine Taylor
Theodore W. Taylor
George G. Thompson
Catherine Van der Kar
Harry K. Weinberg
Thomas C. Whitehouse
Fay C. Willis
Ruth S. Wise
Ida R. Wood
Marie J. Worsham
Ernest Ziegfeld

Leave a legacy through Partners for the Future

Partners for the Future is a special group of donors who include the Center in their estate plans. These supporters are helping ensure the Center's long-term success. You are urged to help.

There are several ways to join Partners for the Future. Many chose to do so by including a bequest to the Southern Poverty Law Center in their wills or living trusts. Others make provision for the eventual distribution of assets held in retirement fund accounts, life insurance policies, and other assets that may provide tax or financial benefits.

Civil Rights Memorial

After planning for the continued financial security of your family and loved ones, we hope you will consider joining Partners for the Future by making a planned gift to the Center.

For information about the many planned giving opportunities available at the Center — with no obligation — please contact our planned giving department by calling toll-free 1-888-414-7752 or by mailing the form below. You can also visit us online at www. SPLCenter. org/donate or e-mail us at plannedgiving@splcenter.org.

If you have already included the Center in your will or estate plan, please contact us so we can update our records. We want to officially welcome you as a Partner for the Future!

☐ The Center is already included in my will or estate plans. Please welcome me as a Partner for the Future.

☐ I'm interested in receiving general information about wills and planned giving.

Please send me information on the following specific planned giving opportunities:

☐ Wills ☐ Charitable Gift Annuities ☐ Insurance Policies ☐ Real Estate
☐ Living Trusts ☐ Charitable Remainder Trusts ☐ Retirement Plans ☐ Securities

My date(s) of birth is: _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Mail to: Partners for the Future
Southern Poverty Law Center · P.O. Box 548 · Montgomery AL 36101-0548

Educators laud Rosa Parks film

Rosa Parks is the focus of one of the Center's most successful teaching kits, *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, which has been sent free to tens of thousands of educators across the country.

In the days following Mrs. Parks' death on October 24, teachers wrote to the Center to express their gratitude for the kit and to describe the impact it had in their classrooms.

"I'm so honored to be sitting in my classroom with 7th and 8th graders right now, way out here in Wyoming, showing them *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*. I would not be able to do this without your work and funding for the video," said a Casper junior high teacher.

Center's Rosa Park film is free to educators.

"With Mrs. Parks' death last night, my kids are actually totally engaged in what they are seeing and hearing. I provided them with academic background knowledge prior to watching the film, but I know this viewing will help them know forever more who Rosa Parks was and what she did. Thank you!"

A Pendleton, Kentucky, social studies teacher thanked the Center for the free materials she received the week before Mrs. Parks' death and added:

"Today, one day after the death of Rosa Parks, I have enjoyed sharing the information with my high school students that your organization provided. It has truly been one of those 'teachable moments' in history that, as a teacher, I crave. My students enjoyed the presentation on Ms. Parks and have learned so much."

"I have taught in the Detroit Public Schools for over 30 years," wrote a middle school teacher the day after Mrs. Parks, who lived in Detroit, died. "On Monday, we viewed the *Mighty Times* video during my debate, history and civics class. Last night, we lost our beloved Rosa Parks. I feel she was reaching out, especially to the youth in our city, for it was no coincidence she was in our classroom just hours before she passed.

"I wrote to you, thanking you for the teaching package, before I left school yesterday, thanking you for its lesson and message, that the appreciation of the love of life is achievable without violence. *Mighty Times* conveys this so well. Thank you, thank you."

Two days after Mrs. Parks' death, the Center's Teaching Tolerance program sent an e-newsletter to educators throughout the country, reminding them of the free *Mighty Times* teaching kit, which includes a teaching guide with classroom activities in addition to the Academy Award-nominated film.

In May, the National Television Academy gave an Emmy Award to the 40-minute film in its daytime Children/Youth/Family Special category.

A Teaching Tolerance lesson prompted Arizona elementary students to express in cartoons their new understanding of prejudice and the pain of hurtful comments.

Drawings help youngsters understand prejudice, hurt

GLENDALE, ARIZ. – "One time someone said that I was fat, stupid and ugly, so I know how it feel to be hurt by people," wrote one student.

Another, in an illustration about her own personal experience, depicts a fellow student being mean to her: "I don't like you because you wear glasses."

Those hurtful statements are just two of dozens of examples of discrimination felt by students every day. With the help of Teaching Tolerance materials and community volunteers, students at Desert Springs Elementary School here were able to express how it feels to experience discrimination.

The project was made possible through a unique partnership between the Glendale Chamber of Commerce and the city's schools. Led by Center supporter Terry Mead, the project aims to promote diversity in the city's schools. Using Teaching Tolerance Materials, Mead and other area attorneys visit Glendale schools with messages of tolerance and respect.

"It started as a foundation through the chamber of commerce aimed at promoting diversity in education," said Mead. "There was some rising tension between Latinos and whites in the community, and we needed to do something."

Over the years, the program has grown. His law firm has bought thousands of copies of the *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and distributed them to local schools and teachers. One of the more effective parts of the presentations, however, are the visits community volunteers like Mead make to the schools.

Tolerance lessons have impact

Janice Shanks, a librarian at Desert Spirit Elementary School in Glendale who works closely with Mead, says the lessons have had an impact.

"The exercises give the students an outlet to their emotions and thoughts about their own lives where prejudice and stereotyping is occurring," She said.

The drawings done by the Glendale Elementary students were an example of one such exercise. The project began when Mead and Brenda Thompson, a law professor at Arizona State University, went to Glendale and showed the Desert Springs students different cartoon images.

"The cartoons shown presented racial minorities in a disrespectful, stereotypical manner. Although we laughed at Popeye, we grimaced at the Japanese stereotypes in the cartoon with him," said Shanks.

While the students were enthralled with the presentation, it wasn't until weeks later that Mead, Shanks and Thompson realized the impact the day had. As a thank you to Mead and Thompson, the students drew their own cartoons depicting their own experiences. Many of those cartoons addressed religion, body size and attractiveness — topics that weren't covered during the initial presentation.

"The drawings clearly showed how prejudice and stereotypes affect their lives and is very real to them," said Shanks. "The students showed they had reflected on what they learned from the speakers."

Mead, who has won numerous awards for his community involvement, says he was amazed at the students' response.

"I was surprised to see how the kids had applied the lessons we brought them," said Mead. "They are clearly affected by many different issues every day."

Center expands juvenile justice work in the Deep South

After years of successful advocacy in Louisiana and Mississippi, the Southern Poverty Law Center has now expanded its juvenile justice work to encompass the entire Deep South.

The Center has a long-standing commitment to protecting children trapped in the juvenile justice system.

"These youth are caught at the intersection of many social problems, including crushing poverty, persistent racism, resource-starved public schools, and a lack of affordable medical and mental health services for children," said Center legal director Rhonda Brownstein. "When the safety net fails these children, they often end up in juvenile court."

Despite the popular mythology of the juvenile "super-predator," very few children confined in juvenile prisons are serious offenders. Most are non-violent. About 70 percent suffer from emotional and mental disorders that have not been treated. Almost all are poor. About two-thirds are African-American or Latino.

Juvenile prisons ineffective, violent

Juvenile prisons are often plagued with violence and provide no meaningful rehabilitation, treatment, or education. Recidivism studies have consistently shown that youth released from juvenile prison are likely to re-offend. Experts agree that there is a direct pipeline from the juvenile justice system to the adult prison system.

"By targeting the juvenile justice system, the Center aims to intervene in the lives of society's most vulnerable population and stop the flow of children from juvenile to adult prison," Brownstein said.

For the past eight years, the Center has combined litigation, legislative advocacy, community organizing and public education to fight for juvenile justice reform in Louisiana. Similar efforts began in Mississippi in the fall of 2003. Underlying all of the Center's juvenile justice work is a push to eliminate punitive incarceration and promote less costly, more effective community-based treatment programs for troubled youth.

Danielle Lipow

This year, the Center expanded its work into Alabama by convening the Alabama Youth Justice Coalition (AYJC) and embarking on a multi-faceted juvenile justice initiative in that state.

AYJC's mission is to reduce juvenile crime, ensure that taxpayer money is spent wisely, empower families and communities, and provide youth with the tools and opportunities they need to become and remain healthy, responsible, productive adults.

In October, the Center took over the Southern Juvenile Defender Center (SJDC) – one of nine regional centers in the National Juvenile Defender Center network that work to improve representation of children in juvenile court. The transfer of SJDC to the Center has solidified the Center's role as a national leader in juvenile justice advocacy.

SJDC will be co-directed by staff attorneys Danielle Lipow and Marion Chartoff. Lipow has been active in the Center's juvenile justice work in Louisiana and Mississippi for three years and now spearheads the Alabama initiative. Chartoff, who joins the Center's legal team in January, is an experienced criminal defense and civil rights attorney with a specialization in juvenile delinquency.

"We are thrilled for SJDC to be passed into the exceptionally capable hands at the Southern Poverty Law Center," said Patti Puritz, executive director of the National Juvenile Defender Center.

The Center's leadership of SJDC will enhance the regional impact of its legal department's work and empower the juvenile defense community. Discussions are already underway on a variety of projects throughout the South, including a collaboration with the Miami public defender's office to produce a report on best practices for troubled youth under the age of 12. The report will help shape policy across the region and across the nation.

VALERIE DOWNES

Thousands of Center supporters gathered in Montgomery, Alabama, on October 23 for the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial Center and Wall of Tolerance. The ceremony was held at an open plaza adjacent to the Civil Rights Memorial. It is located across the street from the Southern Poverty Law Center's office building, seen in the background here.

CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL CENTER REMINDS US WE MUST MARCH ON

by Marilyn Kallet

"The March Continues" is an apt motto for the new Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Alabama, which was dedicated on Sunday, October 23, as thousands of supporters looked on. The motto refers to the march by voting rights activists, who tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge at Selma, and were beaten back by *state and local police* with clubs and tear gas, March 7, 1965.

CONTRIBUTED

Marilyn Kallet

The march to Montgomery was completed on March 25, 1965. A Montgomery native and contributor to the Southern Poverty Law Center, I was invited, along with many others, to honor those who suffered for equality, and those who paid for justice with their lives.

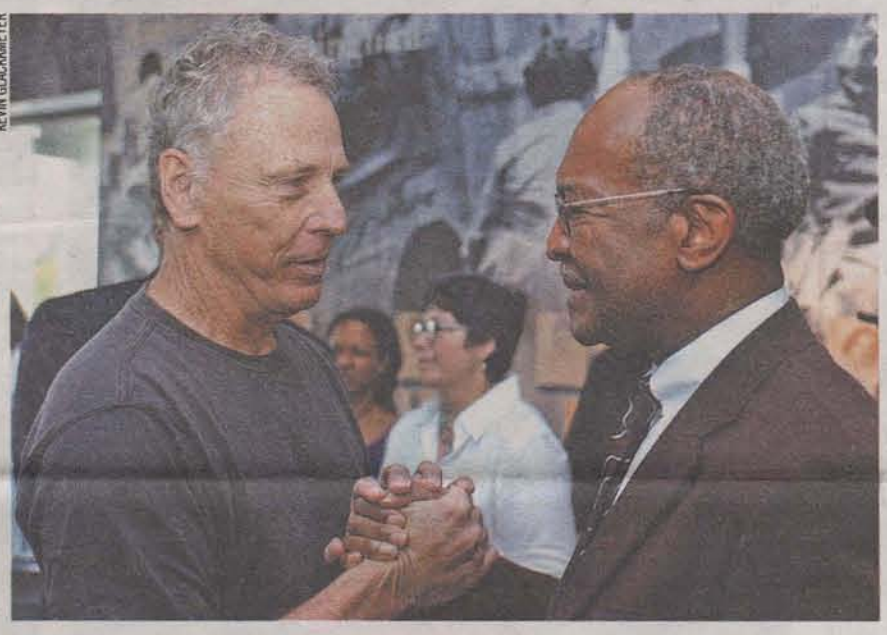
A diverse group in terms of age, race and ethnicity, we gathered to pay homage to martyrs of the movement, whose names are inscribed in the circular black granite memorial and fountain designed in 1989 by Maya Lin. Visitors can also run their fingers over the name of Rosa Parks, who made civil rights history by her protest and arrest on December 1, 1955.

Behind the memorial rises the new center, with informative exhibits about those who dedicated their lives to the struggle. Hate-mongers found other victims, such as Emmett Till, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley — innocent young targets. On our tour of the center, we learned about scores who have died as victims of hate crimes over the last 25 years.

But the Civil Rights Center is life-oriented. There's a bright classroom with art and writing by talented Montgomery youngsters. You don't have to donate money to see your name on the Wall of Tolerance. You have to pledge to work for justice and equality. Names of supporters are illuminated in glowing letters that rain down over a black curved wall.

Sunday morning, buses arrived at hotels across Montgomery, to transport out-of-towners to the ceremony. In a hotel lobby, I met Dr. Jerry McGee, retired dean of New York City Public Schools. He commented, "I think this is one of the most important events since the march on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am so proud of Morris Dees... who has taken us far since the march."

KEVIN GLACKMEYER



Center co-founder Morris Dees greets the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr., senior minister at Riverside Church in New York City. The Rev. Dr. Forbes toured the new Civil Rights Memorial Center the day before the dedication.

Mike Carr, an educator from Princeton Junction, N.J., said, "*Teaching Tolerance* [the Center's magazine] is a tremendous resource for school administrators, who need to understand economic oppression, as well as racial and gender identity."

Goldie Randle of Florida said, "I'm feeling energized and motivated to be part of this event. My friends and I have brought our daughters. If we don't bring the children, they won't know about getting involved."

As we listened to tributes beneath the Alabama sun, the modern Southern Poverty Law offices gleamed behind us, and the new Civil Rights Center rose before us. We were sitting just blocks from the spot where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, two blocks from the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church, two blocks from the former capitol of the Confederacy. The old slave-auction square was not far away. Security checks for weapons, both at the ceremony and at the Center entrance, did not hurt the upbeat mood. A melted clock in the museum explained tight security: the old Southern Poverty Law Center offices had been bombed in 1983.

The dedication was hosted by Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and by Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP. Julian Bond called the Civil Rights Memorial "a true American monument," and deemed the Center "an anchor" for the civil rights movement. Family members of the martyrs read a roll call of the 40 names. U. S. Rep. Artur Davis (D-Ala.), a Montgomery native who began his law career at the Center, spoke about the need to carry on the work against injustice.

Seated next to me was Ernest Haywood, former president of the Dallas NAACP, and a member of the 1942 Tuskegee Airmen. He had been installed as president by Medgar Evers. He said, "I applaud the progress made by the Southern Poverty Law Center and their contribution to civil rights in the United States."

The Civil Rights Memorial Center hosted three days of lectures, films and jazz at the Dexter Avenue church. I attended a lecture, "State of Hate in America," by Mark Potok of the center's Intelligence Project, which monitors and attempts to destroy hate groups. Seated next to me was Elaine Zimmerman, Connecticut Commissioner for Children, who said, "The world is full of tumult and divisiveness. It's awe-inspiring to be surrounded by hope and a commitment to justice, once again."

SPECIAL

Thousands of individuals who have committed to work in their daily lives for justice and equality have placed their names on the new Wall of Tolerance.

KEVIN GLACKMEYER

Clara Willoughby (left) and Pat Thornton use one of four computer terminals at the Wall of Tolerance to place their names on the Wall.

Dr. Marilyn Kallet, a Center supporter since 2002, holds the Hodges Chair for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Tennessee.

Civil Rights Memorial an instrument of justice

Jerry Mitchell, an investigative reporter for The *(Jackson, Miss.)* Clarion-Ledger, *is largely responsible for the reopening and successful prosecution of a number of previously unsolved civil rights murders. He spoke at the October 23, 2005, dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial Center. A month later, he was named the 2005 winner of the John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism from Columbia University for his 16-year effort to bring Klan killers to justice. Following is the text of his dedication ceremony speech.*

JAMES PATTERSON

Jerry Mitchell

One day the South will recognize its true heroes, Martin Luther King said. That day has come.

The Civil Rights Memorial stands as a reminder of 40 martyrs whose lives were stolen by hate. Four girls in a church. A father rallying for voter registration and defending his family against firing Klansmen. Three civil rights workers doing their part to improve conditions in Mississippi.

The names on this Memorial have power. The names James Chaney, Andy Goodman and Mickey Schwerner helped to bring change to this nation and still resonate today. I recently visited Chaney's grave in Meridian, Mississippi, and the words there struck me: "There are those who are alive, yet will never live; those who are dead, yet will live forever. Great deeds inspire and encourage the living."

This Memorial stands as a reminder their killers walked free, even though everyone knew they were guilty. This Memorial stands as a reminder, too, that others played a complicit role in these injustices. We have more than the Klan to blame. Businessmen, doctors, lawyers and others in the community through their timidity and weakness failed to step into this moral crisis in this country.

But this Memorial stands as much more than a reminder. After its dedication in 1989, it transformed into an instrument of justice. What few people realize is the role played by the book that accompanied this Memorial, *Free At Last*. The publication became a roadmap for me on my journey into reinvestigating these cases, starting with the 1963 assassination of Mississippi NAACP leader Medgar Evers.

This Memorial and this book helped to ensure that although time passed, these martyrs were never forgotten. In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith went to prison for life for Evers' killing. In 1998, Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers went to prison for life for killing Vernon Dahmer. In 2001 and 2002, Thomas Blanton and Bobby Frank Cherry went to prison for life for planting the bomb in a Birmingham church that killed Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Robertson. In 2003, Ernest Avants went to prison for life for killing Ben Chester White. And a few months ago, Edgar Ray Killen went to prison for 60 years for helping orchestrate the killings of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner.

These Klansmen were not the only ones who went behind bars. Since 1989, authorities in seven states, including Alabama, have reexamined 29 killings from the civil rights era and made 27 arrests, leading to 22 convictions.

Since 1989, I have dedicated my life to tracking down these unpunished killers, these terrorists who committed these brutal and cowardly acts. It has not been an easy journey. There were many people who wanted me to stop, including friends, family and fellow journalists. A recent letter to the editor said I should be "tarred, ... feathered and run out" of the state of Mississippi. It's always nice to know you have someone who will help you pack.

Success has come in some cases not because of my work, but because the cause is great and because there are many others greater than me who have taken up that cause — some of them with us today.

Too often we as Americans think of change as something accomplished only by rugged individualists. The truth is change comes when many unite in a common cause to change a people and a place. Such was the case in the 1960s when thousands came to the South to make a difference.

As Bobby Kennedy once noted, each time we improve the lot of others, we send forth "a tiny ripple of hope," which joins other ripples to "sweep down the mightiest walls."

Let this be more than a time to remember the injustices of the past. Let this be a time to stand up against the injustices of the present. May God bless each of you as you set yourself firmly among those whose deeds live forever.

KEVIN GLACKMEYER

RYAN KING

Rita Schwerner Bender (left), widow of slain civil rights worker Michael Schwerner, and Judge Vanzetta McPherson take turns reciting the names of the 40 listed on the Memorial during the dedication. Morris Dees (above) welcomes longtime Center supporter Father August Thompson. Lecia Brooks (below) is director of the new Civil Rights Memorial Center. Don McGrath belts out his rendition of "Abraham, Martin and John" at the conclusion of the ceremony.

KEVIN GLACKMEYER

VALERIE DOWNES

REFLECTIONS ON THE DEDICATION

What a beautiful event the Sunday program was. We sat in the middle of a mix of people from widely varied cultural and educational backgrounds, all united in a common bond of supporting each other as human beings.

J. B.
Augusta, Georgia

This was one of the best organized events I have ever attended. Everyone was helpful and informative. Security procedures were tight but not oppressive. Great job.

For me, the weekend was emotional. The Memorial Center's exhibits are very moving, and the Wall of Tolerance moved me to tears. To stand in the room and feel the connection to all the people's names flowing down the Wall is so powerful.

The best part was taking the tour of the Center's law offices. I have never been so proud to be associated with any group. It was wonderful to be there and meet the staff.

I just wanted you to know how much the Memorial and the work that you do is appreciated by those of us spread across the country.

S. D.
Tempe, Arizona

I drove down for the visitor center dedication. I was honored to have been there for this event. The Memorial brought me to tears — such simplicity but such power. I must say that everyone with whom I came in contact at the Memorial and the visitor center were extremely friendly and knowledgeable, a credit to the project. Congratulations on a wonderful event.

I. W.
Binghamton, New York

I returned from the dedication last night, and my friend and I want to incorporate some of the ideas we got into our school diversity program. We both left inspired and in many ways blown away by what has been done there in Montgomery.

Because I am a relatively recent widow, I almost didn't make the trip, but I am thrilled that I did. I needed the uplifting experience of being around so many like-minded people, and I think I needed a little push to start working harder on tolerance at the high school where I teach English.

Thanks for a spectacular weekend experience. I can't wait to share it with my students and other faculty members.

C. W.
Anderson, South Carolina

My wife and I were greatly touched by our visit to the new Civil Rights Memorial Center. It is a wonderful tribute to those who

RYAN KING

Honoring his mother

Shelton Chappell of Miami plays a soulful tune on his saxophone to honor his mother, Johnnie Mae Chappell. White supremacists murdered her in 1964 as she walked along a Jacksonville, Florida, roadside, but her story remained largely unknown until 2000, when the Civil Rights Memorial was re-dedicated to her memory and all the other victims of racial injustice whose stories may never be known. Mrs. Chappell's story is included in the Civil Rights Memorial Center exhibits.

Leader dies days after dedication

For all that she accomplished, Julia Diann Sams might best be remembered for a few simple words she shared with a reporter during the Civil Rights Memorial Center dedication weekend.

"You're not born hateful," Sams said. "It's something that you're taught and you learn. And you can be untaught it."

For Sams' friends, those words have come to define a life dedicated to helping others.

Sams, a beloved community leader in Ithaca, New York, died just four days after making the more than 1,000-mile trip from her Ithaca home to Montgomery for the Civil Rights Memorial Center dedication. The trip was one nearly the entire Ithaca community rallied together to make happen.

When Sams found out her name would be on the Wall of Tolerance, she wrote a letter to Oprah Winfrey, asking the talk-show host to send her and 100 of her friends to the dedication. Her wish to go to Montgomery caught the attention of the community, who backed her up with a letter-writing campaign to get Oprah's attention. Nearly 100 letters were written to the show.

Though she never heard back from Oprah, Sams ended up making the trip with 22 friends and family, thanks to assistance from community sponsors. Those letters and support, say friends, reflect a community-wide appreciation for Sams' accomplishments.

Sams' impact on the Ithaca community was significant. In 1993, she became the first African-American woman to serve on the City's Common Council. As an alderwoman, she represented Ithaca's Second Ward and later became the city's first African-American mayor when she served as the city's acting mayor.

Her election to the Common Council came six years after she ran for a seat on the city's school board. She won, and became just the second African-American to serve on the Ithaca City School District Board of Education.

Later, Sams helped write Ithaca's bias crime ordinance. She earned the first New York State Harriet Tubman Humanitarian Achievement Award and the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission's James L. Gibbs Award.

Current Ithaca Alderwoman Michelle Berry said Sams was a woman who continually "went beyond and beyond and beyond. She was a visionary and a courageous leader who fought tirelessly for social justice."

A small group of Ithaca College students who were able to travel with Sams to Montgomery for the dedication said they were moved to be able to share the experience with Sams, and to see the Wall of Tolerance.

RYAN KING

Diann Sams (seated) and family members meet Center co-founder Morris Dees.

"[The Wall of Tolerance] was truly inspirational and life-changing," said student Chris DeAngelis. "Being there made me think twice about the way I treat other people."

Sams, who had a long history of rheumatoid arthritis, died October 28 at the age of 57.

Dedication weekend in Montgomery is 'personal journey towards change'

Dr. Jerry McGee, retired dean of New York City schools, wrote the following letter to Center co-founder Morris Dees after returning home from the Civil Rights Memorial Center dedication.

The excitement you wrote of which was building in Montgomery, I met it with opened arms, and I embraced it with all my heart. Immediately, the excitement transformed to a rush of deep-seeded emotion, and I felt as if I had finally made my personal journal towards change in American society.

CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Jerry McGee

This missive comes as a tribute to you and all who work with you, for what you have done and continue to do preserving the rights of justice for all people, regardless of their race, their color, their sexual preference, and their human gender. I have returned home from the city of Montgomery, Alabama, this 25th day of October 2005, spiritually high, humanly renewed and profoundly reformed after spending, thus far, the greatest five days of my life in Southern hospitality and the comforts of your care.

It is very difficult to find the words to express how I truly feel. To say "thanks" is too small. I wish I knew a bigger word, but "thanks" is all I can think of for the moment.

I did not march with the many unknown freedom marchers of 1965, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to liberation. Rather, I walked across it in 2005, while holding the hand of a white man named Sean.

I did not stand in the crowd of promulgators at the stairs of the Alabama State Capitol when Governor George Wallace announced "Segregation forever," but I held the hand of a white staff member named Tony, on the stairs of the Alabama State Capitol, and we both said, "Segregation no more."

I did not stand against the water hoses of the Birmingham fire department as the water tossed from side to side, and knocked to the ground hero children. Rather, I placed my hand on the monument which bears the names of the hero children, and I allowed the water that flows over them to comfort me: they gave all they had for me to vote and be free — their lives.

I did not stay off the bus and participate in the boycott of the bus company. I did sit behind the wheel of a bus like the one unsung heroes and heroines refused to ride, and my passengers were black and white, who sat untroubled and harmoniously.

I thought of all that I did in five days and the many people, black and white, you and your staff members, who I embraced in love and tolerance. This letter came from my comfortable chair and desk to say thank you so very much for all your work and this emotional moment in my life. May the God we both serve continue to walk with you and continue to protect you from evil and evildoers for as long as you live.

have given their lives in the cause of tolerance, and we were very glad to have the opportunity to add our names to the Wall of Tolerance.

W. D.
Oneonta, New York

Just a quick note to tell you what a wonderful experience the entire weekend was. The tours, the lectures, meeting so many of SPLC's people. You obviously work so hard — it is very impressive.

The actual dedication ceremony on Sunday brought tears to my eyes, but I'm sure that was a common occurrence. Please pass on my appreciation to everyone involved. I can't say that I've ever been exposed to such a large organization where every person I came into contact with was wonderfully warm and friendly. Just a great time!

N. E.
Corona, California

I have just returned home from the dedication. My family of three was there, too. It was a great day in America.

A. L.
Dallas, Texas

My father had the honor of being invited to the recent dedication. My mom and I had the great pleasure and honor to attend with him. This experience was one of gaining knowledge and experiencing the "love" of those who attended. That day was my utopia in life. If I could live the experience of meeting tolerant, open, caring, diverse people everyday, what a gift from God that would be.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for your dedication to what is right, true and just. I feel very blessed to have been present at the dedication. I not only came away with new understanding, but new friends from all over the country and world.

D. V.
Tooele, Utah

I just arrived home from my visit to Montgomery to participate in your dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial Center. It was an amazing and moving experience for me. I will never, ever forget the man who sang "Abraham, Martin and John (Anybody Here?)." I was so emotionally overcome.

Thank you — for your work, for a weekend that I will never forget, and for helping me to remember that what I do does indeed count and that I am not alone.

D. S.
Middleboro, Massachusetts

SPLC
SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE DECEMBER 2005 SPLC REPORT
www.splcenter.org

EDITED BY PENNY WEAVER

Send your comments and suggestions to: Editor, *SPLC Report*, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104 or fax to 334-956-8491. © 2005 Southern Poverty Law Center, Inc. No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced by any means without permission. All rights reserved. Printed on recycled paper in the USA.

Monument's waters create 'ripples of hope'

Civil Rights Memorial dedication speech resonates today

Julian Bond, who hosted the October 23 dedication ceremony for the new Civil Rights Memorial Center, gave the keynote address at the dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial on November 5, 1989. That speech is reprinted here.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, family members.

This memorial sits only a few blocks west of the first capitol of the Confederacy, the spot where Jefferson Davis took the oath of office to become President of the Confederate States. From Court Square to the north and west of this site the order was sent in 1861 to "reduce" Fort Sumter, beginning the Civil War. Ninety-four years later, on a December evening, Mrs. Rosa Parks began a historic bus ride from Court Square. East of us is the Dexter Avenue (King Memorial) Baptist Church, where a young pastor named Martin Luther King Jr. led the movement Mrs. Parks began.

We are gathered in the cradle of the Confederacy to dedicate a monument to those who died so all might be free. As we do so, let us rededicate ourselves to freedom's fight. Let us gather, not in recrimination, but in reconciliation, remembrance, and renewed resolve.

Once this cradle rocked with the violence of our opponents; today it is soothed by the waters of this monument. A monument which, like the movement it honors, is majestic in its simplicity, overwhelming in its power. It bears the names of 40 men, women, and children who gave their lives for freedom. It recalls their individual sacrifice. And it summons us to continue their collective cause.

Many martyrs ordinary people

Most of the freedom 40 were ordinary people. Long before they died, some had already surrendered their lives to service to others; for some, service competed with job and family; for too many more, death came not because of what they did but because of who and where they were at a horrible moment that made them martyrs.

Virgil Ware was riding on the handlebars of his brother's bike when death struck. He was 13 years old — a threat to no one, but his skin color marked him for murder, and they cut him down.

Lieutenant Colonel Lemuel Penn meant no harm. He was driving home after performing his duty as a soldier, but his color marked him for extinction, and they cut him down.

They told Ben Chester White, who wouldn't say no to integrated schools, that he was needed to help find a lost dog, and they cut him down.

They didn't believe that service in his country's army entitled Corporal Roman Ducksworth Jr., to a front seat on the bus, and they cut him down.

They were looking for three other bodies when they found Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee. Only their color qualified them for death, and they cut them down

These names and others now join their more celebrated brothers and sisters as the roll of sacrifice is called. They gave an equal measure of devotion so that all of us might be free.

Buried with each is a bit of American apartheid, for their deaths kept the movement marching on. That is why we honor them today not in sorrow, but in celebration.

There are those gathered here today who cannot remember the period when these sacrifices began, with its small cruelties and monstrous injustices, its petty indignities and its death-dealing inequities. There are many too young to remember that from that seeming hopelessness there arose a mighty movement, simple in its tactics, overwhelming in its impact.

That movement had its beginnings in Montgomery when a people chose to walk in dignity rather than sit in segregated despair. From this city, the movement and its method spread throughout the land.

In 1955, when the mournful list of martyrs begins, the American South was an apartheid society, a world where racial differences were legitimized by law. A white Southern woman recently described it this way:

"I remember, from my early childhood, that white-robed men did sometimes ride out, and that there were lynchings from time to time. In those days black people could not vote. They could not travel because no lodging place would admit them. They were restricted to only the most menial jobs. There were few restrooms marked COLORED, which were the only ones they could use. No matter how hot the day they could not drink at a public fountain unless it was one of the very few marked COLORED. They were not allowed to try on clothes in the stores. In cities, where buses were everyone's means of transportation, they had to sit at the back of the bus, and I often saw them, as they made their way down the crowded aisle to the back, sworn at if they accidentally brushed against a white person. When they went to the movies they had to use a separate entrance and sit in the balcony. No black could ever come to a white person's front door.

"And the wonder of it," she writes, "is that the goodhearted among us (and we Southern whites are a basically goodhearted people), did not even see the harsh injustice and indignity in all of this. It was simply the way things were."[1]

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled against segregation's legality. Soon a movement arose to challenge its morality as well.

There had been protests before against this evil system, in the courts and in the streets, but after Montgomery the protests swelled to a collective force.

College students adopted the techniques of Montpomery and began accepting jail without bail when they sat down to stand up for their rights.

They soon attacked segregated interstate travel with their bodies and segregated ballot boxes across the South as well.

Through all this period, the federal government helped only when it had to, when white lives or property were under attack.

The state and local governments worked in active concert with white terrorists, and the movement's people had few allies beyond themselves.

From its inception, it was a people's movement. The cumulative effect of individual acts of passive resistance brought about modern democracy's finest hour. By 1965, Jim Crow was legally dead.

Most of those who made the movement weren't the famous; they were the faceless. They weren't the noted; they were the nameless — the marchers with tired feet, the protestors beaten back by billy clubs and fire hoses, the unknown women and men who risked job and home and life.

We honor all of them today.

Let no one tell us that their movement wasn't a success.

Ask Montgomery's maids who walked to work for over a year so they could ride in dignity if the movement was a success. Ask the sharecroppers who lived in fear if the movement was a success. Ask the mothers who couldn't take their children to a downtown toilet or a decent school if the movement was a success.

And ask Hartman Turnbow, a black Mississippian, who said:

"Anybody hadda told me 'fore it happened that conditions would make this much change between the white and the black in Holmes County here where I live, why I'da just said, 'You're lyin'. It won't happen.' I just wouldn't have believed it. I didn't dream of it. I didn't see no way. But it got to workin' just like the citizenship class teacher told us — that if we would register to vote and just stick with it. He says it's gon' be some difficulties. He told us that when we started. We was lookin' for it. He said we gon' have difficulties, gon' have troubles, folks gon' lose their homes, folks gon' lose their lives, peoples gon' lose all their money, and just like he said, all of that happened. He didn't miss it. He hit it ka-dap on the head, and it's workin' now. It won't never go back to where it was."[2]

KEITH WELDON MEDLEY

Julian Bond and Rosa Parks at the Civil Rights Memorial in 1989

The movement succeeded in spite of cowards planting bombs in the night, in spite of shots fired in darkness, in spite of lynch mobs and hooded thugs, in spite, as Dr. King said, of the brutality of a dying order shrieking across the land.

In its successes, it has much to teach us today. America looks back at the Vietnam war to discover what went wrong; we can look back at the movement to remember what went right.

As the old Freedom Song reminds us, "Ain't but one thing we did wrong; stayed in segregation a day too long. Ain't but one thing we did right; that's the day we started to fight!"

Yesterday's movement succeeded — in part — because the victims became their own best champions. When Mrs. Parks refused to stand up, and when Dr. King stood up to preach, mass participation came to the movement for civil rights. We must continue to fight.

Today, too many of us — young and old, black and white — believe we are impotent, unable to influence the society in which we live.

'We must continue to fight'

Three decades ago, we marched, we picketed, we protested; and we brought state-sanctioned segregation crashing to its knees. We must continue to fight.

Yesterday's headlines send forth the message that we move forward fastest when we move forward together.

Today we have more experience, more legal skills, and more allies than we had then.

We have more than a century's history of aggressive self help and voluntarism in church and civic club, assisting the needy and financing the cause of social justice, and an equally long and honorable tradition of struggle and resistance.

We can double our support for those organizations that guard our liberties and protect our rights.

We can realize our full political potential, rewarding those who support equal rights and punishing those who don't.

We can monitor our children's schools, making sure the end of education isn't the beginning of a lifetime of unemployment.

We must continue to fight.

Next to those we honor today, we are called to give comparatively little — our time, our energy, our caring.

As Robert Kennedy once said:

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of these acts will be written the history of [each] generation. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.[3]

May the waters of this monument create ripples of hope — now and forevermore.

---

1. Rosa Lee Jay, "We are not what we were," *The Herald Leader*, Fitzgerald, Georgia, June 7, 1989.
2. Raines, Howell, *My Soul Is Rested*, p. 25, G.P. Putnam's Sons (1977).
3. Day of Affirmation Speech, Cape Town, South Africa, June 6, 1966.