

Freedom's Feast MLK DAY

On-line ceremonies to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday celebrations.

YOUNG HEROES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

"Young people could think and act responsibly, and our actions could change the course of history and the world."

FREEMAN HRABOWSKI III,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY,
REFLECTING ON WHAT HE LEARNED AS A 12-YEAR-OLD BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST LEADER.



DIANE NASH
1938-PRESENT



RUBY BRIDGES
1954-PRESENT



BARBARA JOHNS
1935-1991



JAMES BEVEL
1936-2008



JAMES MEREDITH
1933-PRESENT



EMMETT TILL
1941-1955



JAMES CHANEY
1943-1964



ANDREW GOODMAN
1943-1964



MICHAEL SCHWERNER
1939-1964

Diane Nash was a prominent young leader in the Civil Rights Movement. Along with **John Lewis**, she led one of the first successful lunch counter sit-in campaigns in Nashville, Tennessee and was a key leader and organizer for the Freedom Riders.

Ruby Bridges, one of five African-American children to integrate the New Orleans School System, was the only African-American child to integrate the school she attended in 1960. Federal marshals escorted her to school every day of her first grade year to assure her safety.

At age 16, **Barbara Johns** led a student walk out in her school to protest unfair conditions. After the NAACP provided legal counsel, her case became a part of the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision to desegregate our nation's public schools.

James Bevel started out as a member of the Nashville Student Movement and later became a close adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He convinced the movement leaders to include children in the Birmingham, Alabama protests, their participation eventually called 'The Children's Crusade,' and proposed the historic march on Washington.

James Meredith was the first African-American to integrate the all-white University of Mississippi, which initially denied admission to Meredith based on his race. The Supreme Court ruled that Meredith should be admitted to the university, and President John F. Kennedy sent federal marshals to provide protection for Meredith.

Emmett Till, a young boy from Chicago, was brutally murdered in Mississippi after allegedly speaking inappropriately to a white female grocery store clerk. His murder, many say, was a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

James Earl Chaney, **Andrew Goodman**, and **Michael Schwerner** were three young volunteers with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). All three were participating in a voter registration and desegregation campaign called "Freedom Summer" in Mississippi. They traveled to Philadelphia, Mississippi to investigate a church bombing near the area. After being arrested and jailed for alleged traffic violations, they were released and then killed by the Ku Klux Klan. Chaney and Goodman were 21 and Schwerner was 25 when they were murdered.

DID YOU KNOW? 1) Ruby Bridges was just six-years-old when she became one of the first African-American students to integrate the New Orleans Public School System; 2) After the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling, the county of Prince Edward, Virginia defied the federal order by closing all of their public schools and did not integrate for another ten years; 3) Over 1,900 children, ranging from age 8-18, joined the "Children's Crusade" and were arrested and jailed during the Birmingham civil rights protests; 4) John Lewis, one of the young leaders in the Freedom Riders, today serves as a United States Congressman from Georgia; 5) At age 12, Freeman Hrabowski III, now a nationally-renowned university president, was spat on and arrested by Birmingham Police Commissioner Bull Connor.