

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**FREEDOM RIDERS 40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, Veterans Day Weekend, NOVEMBER 8-11, 2001  
[www.freedomridersfoundation.com](http://www.freedomridersfoundation.com) // 1-888-242-5415

Vol. 1, No. One, 2001 July 09

# FREEDOM RIDERS TO HAVE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Inspired by an event honoring the Freedom Riders, put on earlier this year in Oakland, California by the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, a group of Freedom Riders has announced plans to hold a Reunion in Jackson, Mississippi in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Freedom Rides.

The Reunion will be on Veterans Day Weekend, the 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 2001.

Miriam Webster's dictionary (interactive edition) defines "Freedom Rider" as one of the persons who, in 1961, poured into Jackson, Mississippi, for the purpose of desegregating facilities of public accommodation.

At that time, as strange as it sounds today, bus stations (and train stations, restaurants and other places of public accommodation) had separate areas for "white" and "colored" people. The Freedom Riders, small groups, many of them college students, all trained in non-violence, traveling in mixed groups of Caucasians and African-Americans, tried to integrate these facilities. Some were attacked and beaten. They were arrested, put in jail, tried, and convicted.

Years later, the convictions were thrown out after appeals to the Supreme Court of the USA.

Plans for the Reunion include a trip to the Jackson City Jail where the Freedom Riders were held, a reception at the old Greyhound Bus Station, a gospel church service at Tougaloo College (a college which was traditionally all African-American), and an oral history project.<>

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES US

How the world does spin! As we prepare to

organize the Reunion, folks in Jackson, Black and White, have been very helpful. The Chamber of Commerce put out the welcome mat, and major

hotels have offered us discounts. The City Council and Mayor will dedicate a plaque. What a great Reunion this is going to be! <>

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Vol. 1, No. Two, 2001 October 01

# GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL "DO"

FREEDOM RIDERS

IN Jackson, Mississippi for the 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION, celebrating their 1961 exploits, would have been disappointed to find that the Greyhound and Continental bus terminals in which many of them were arrested are no longer in use. But **Robert Adams**, the architect who has taken over and now occupies the old Greyhound Bus terminal has

graciously agreed to permit the Freedom Riders to return to the scene of their "crimes" while enjoying at the same time a glass of wine and a bit of cheese. The reception will be for Freedom Riders, their friends and families. (This is one of the Reunion events to which the public will not be invited.)<>

## HOST COMMITTEE MEETS TO MAKE PLANS

With help from the Jackson Chamber of Commerce's Jan Hillegas and Dr. Les McLemore, President of the Jackson City Council, a local Host Committee is meeting in Jackson to help with the Reunion. Thank you all in advance!<>

## TERRORISM DID NOT STOP US THEN, WILL NOT STOP US NOW

In a letter from Carol Ruth Silver, Chair of the Reunion, posted in full at [www.freedomridersfoundation.org](http://www.freedomridersfoundation.org), she recounts how the organizers considered canceling the Reunion after the recent tragedies.

"But," she says, "we must not allow the terrorists to destroy what is precious about American life, our freedom to come and go, to travel, respect and be respected, to fix what is wrong with our society, non-violently. We shall continue, we shall overcome."<>

## HOOTE- NANNY!

Saturday night at Tougaloo College -- after the speeches, after the serious talk, after exchanging business cards with folks who, when you knew them 40 years ago, never ever expected to have a business card, after all is said and done -- we are going to sing. We'll sing the songs that stitched together a movement, and we'll sing God Bless America. Don't miss it.<>

Freedom Riders Reunion News  
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Vol. 1, No. Three, 2001 November 10

## GOVERNOR MUSGROVE DECLARES: FREEDOM RIDERS DAY IN MISSISSIPPI

In honor of the Freedom Riders and their friends who will be arriving in Jackson, Mississippi for the 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION, celebrating their 1961 incarceration in jails across the South, Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove has issued a proclamation that Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001, be designated "Freedom Riders Day" in Mississippi. This is the day on which the Reunion will have its keynote speeches, its workshops and, in the evening, its HOOTENANNY, a festive opportunity to sing Freedom Songs and re-experience the emotional music which sustained the Freedom Riders in their jail cells. The Governor's proclamation said in part: "...we salute the heroic efforts in 1961 of the Freedom Riders...on the long, often perilous road to end segregation..., a journey and struggle that continues today ...".<

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS for the REUNION

FREEDOM RIDERS'  
FOUNDATION

*WWW.FREEDOM-  
RIDERSFOUNDATION  
.ORG*

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TaxiCabs  
Yellow Cab – 601-922-3782  
Veteran's Cab – 601-355-2222  
Deluxe Cab – 601-948-4761

Edison-Walthall Hotel  
225 East Capitol  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201  
601-948-6161  
fax: 601-948-0088  
reservations: 1-800-932-6161  
Bar & Rm Service to 10 PM  
Business Center 24 hours

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
226 East Capitol  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201  
601-969-5100  
fax: 601-353-4333  
reservations: 1-800-2CROWNE  
Business Services 24 hours

Crowne Rest. & Bar, open to  
10:00 pm  
Bar (with food) open to 12:00 M.  
Room Service avail. to 12:00 M.

Emergencies – dial 911  
Poison control – 601-354-7660

Nick's Printing (like Kinkos)  
228 East Capitol Street, Jkson  
601-969-6500

Late Night Pizza to 1:00 a.m.  
Dominoes – 601-353-5600  
Papa John's – 601-853-1951

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