



# Voices of Courage & Justice

The title text is overlaid on two overlapping silhouettes of human profiles facing right. The front profile is purple and the back profile is gold. The text is in a serif font, with 'Voices' in a smaller size above 'of Courage & Justice'.

*Honoring Medgar and Myrlie Evers*

# *Courage And Justice Gala*

*Friday, June 9th, 2023*

## **S P E A K E R S**

**Myrlie Evers**

Founder, Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute

**Reena Evers-Everette**

Executive Director, Medgar &  
Myrlie Evers Institute

**Reverend Al Sharpton**

Founder and President,  
National Action Network  
Host, MSNBC PoliticsNation

**Rita Brent**

Comedian, Writer, Musician

**Kevin Frazier**

Co-Host, Entertainment Tonight

**Arekia Bennett-Scott**

Board Member, The Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute

**Alveno N. Castilla**

Treasurer Board Member,  
The Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute

**Keith David**

**Mark Foust**  
Regional Director, Interior Region 2,  
South Atlantic-Gulf,  
National Park Service

**Amanda Furdge**

**Jalyn Hall**

**Kyra Henderson & Tilmus Jackson**

**Dr. William T. Jemison**

Chairman of the board, Juanita Sims Doty  
Foundation

**The Honorable Chokwe Antar Lumumba**

Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi

**Dr. Ebony Lumumba**

First Lady of Jackson, Mississippi

**Dr. Karla McCullough**

Co-Founder and Executive Director,  
Juanita Sims Doty Foundation

**Senator Jon Ossoff**

United States Senator from Georgia

**Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi**

United States Representative from  
California's 11th District

**Wallace Phillips**

**Rob Reiner**

**Smokey Robinson**

**Dr. Juanita Sims Doty**

Co-Founder and Board Member  
Juanita Sims Doty Foundation

**Reverend Mark. A Thompson**

**Chandra Vasser**

Vice President and Chief Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion Officer,  
Nissan Americas

**Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock**

United States Senator from Georgia

**Lance Wheeler**

Director of Exhibitions,  
National Center for Civil and Human Rights



# *Courage And Justice Gala*

## P E R F O R M E R S

Bi Biz Band

Dr. John Uzodinma

Brownstone

Kenny Lattimore

## H O N O R E E S

**Lonnie G. Bunch III**

Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution

**William J. Bynum**

CEO, Hope Credit Union

**Dr. Hazel N. Dukes**

President, NAACP New York State Conference

**Marian Wright Edelman**

Founder and President Emerita, Children's  
Defense Fund

**Secretary Deb Haaland**

United States Secretary of the Interior

**Eric Holder**

Former United States Attorney General

**Ray Mabus**

Former Secretary of the United States Navy

**James Meredith**

Civil Rights Activist

**LaJune Montgomery-Tabron**

President and CEO, W.K. Kellogg  
Foundation

**Mildred Bond Roxborough**

Former Director of Programs, NAACP

**Gloria Steinem**

Writer and Political Activist

**Congressman Bennie G. Thompson**

United States Representative from  
Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District

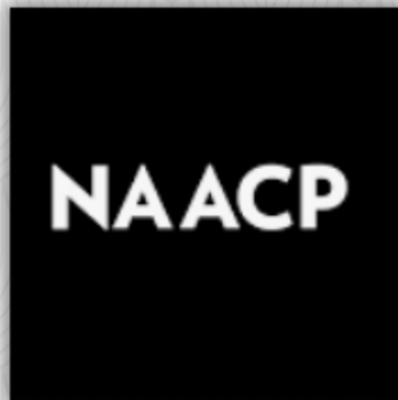
**Ambassador Andrew Young**

Former United States Ambassador to the  
United Nations

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Barbara Broccoli



NAACP



Nissan

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Alcorn State University

*Champion of Courage \$25,000*



Movement for  
Black Lives



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CUNY Medgar Evers  
College



Amazon



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Feldman

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Hope Credit Union



Jackson Municipal  
Airport Authority



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W.K. Kellogg  
Foundation



# *Thank You to Our Strategic Partners*



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Mississippi Department  
of Archves & History

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**Two Mississippi Museums**

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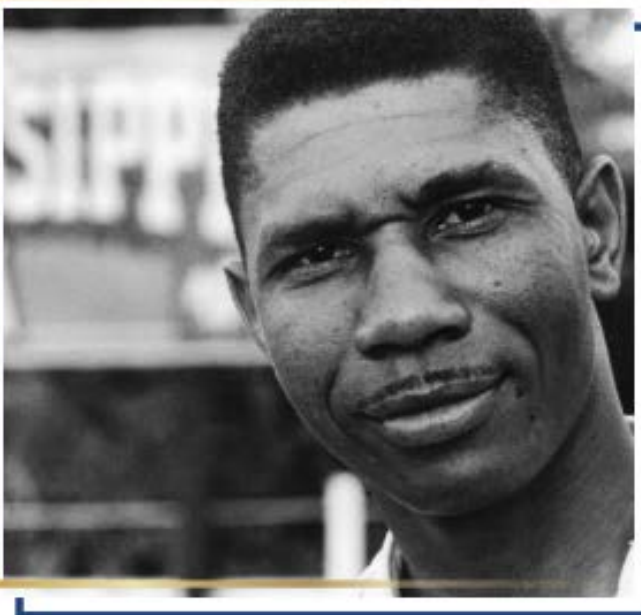
Congratulations on  
The Voices of Courage and Justice Award  
Love, Barbara



## *About the Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute*

The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute represents legacies of two of the most critical civil rights activists in the history of our country. MMEI is committed to strengthened communities throughout the United States so that all Americans can live a life free of violence, exercise their liberty and right to vote, and pursue advancement opportunities. We aim to stack the deck against everyday Americans, weaken communities and eliminate progress.

Our goal is to inspire, educate, activate, heal, and empower the next generation of social and racial justice, civil rights and human rights activists. At MMEI we believe all Americans benefit when intergenerational connections are strengthened, new generations of socially and politically active leaders are empowered, individuals are provided with quality education and communicates work together to benefit our nations.



# *Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute*

## *Board of Directors*



Myrlie Evers is perhaps best remembered as the widow of Medgar Evers, Mississippi's first state field secretary for the NAACP, who in 1963, was gunned down in the driveway of their home in Jackson, Mississippi. Through her unwavering vision and determined spirit, she is credited with spearheading the operations that restored the NAACP to its original status as the premier civil rights organization in America.

*Myrlie Evers*

Chairman Emeritus



Alveno N. Castilla is an attorney at Butler Snow law firm in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Butler has received many distinctions and accolades that include The Best Lawyers in America Lawyer of the Year, Litigation & Controversy – Tax, 2013, The Best Lawyers in America, Corporate Law, Litigation and Controversy and many more.

*Alveno N. Castilla*

Attorney Butler Snow Law Firm



She is the associate vice president/dawn of communications and marketing at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where she is responsible for managing the communications/public relations and marketing efforts for both the academic and hospital sides of the institution. Most recently, she served as assistant vice president of communications and marketing at CUNY Kingsborough Community College, having previously served with the City University of New York's Central Office of University Relations where she managed and directed special projects and media relations activities.

*Dawn S. Walker*

Associate VP Communications &  
Marketing SUNY Downstate Medical Center

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# *Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute*

## *Board of Directors*



Reena Evers-Everette is the daughter of civil-rights activists Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams. Born in the Mississippi Delta in a progressive town of Mound Bayou. Some of her civic and volunteer involvements include former chairman of the board of directors of the Claremont Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the City of Claremont's Committees on Dialogue and Human Relation, Sojourn to the Past, Board Chair MS Votes Action Fund Board member, and a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Global Community Leadership Fellow

### *Reena Evers-Everette*

Executive Director, Medgar  
And Myrlie Evers Institute



Arekia is the Executive Director of MS Votes, an organization committed to civic engagement of Mississippians across generations, cultures, identities, inequities and struggles, with particular focus on young people. Through this organization, Arekia has been working on addressing voter disenfranchisement, voter ID laws, rural voter turnout, and increasing voter participation in all elections. She also advises political aspirants and candidates seeking office on civic engagement strategy.

### *Arekia Bennett- Scott*

Board Member

### *Additional Board Members*

Marino Bruce, Roscoe Jones, Alex Lawson, Nicole Evers-Everette





## *Rita Brent*

Comedian, Writer, Musician

Rita Brent is an award-winning comedian, musician, and military veteran from Jackson, MS.

After graduating from Jackson State University and serving 9 years in the Army National Guard, she made a big leap into standup comedy in 2013.

Since then she has appeared as a standup comedian on Comedy Central, truTV, Epix TV, LOL Network, Circle TV, CNN, and more. She tours as an opening act with her mentors, Rickey Smiley and Cedric the Entertainer.

Rita is now building her comedy writing résumé which include the 73rd Primetime EMMY Awards, Stand Out: An LGBTQ Celebration on Netflix, and most recently— The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. (In 2023, she became a first-time Writers Guild Awards Nominee in two categories.)

When she's not on the road as a standup comedian, she's an up and coming music performance artist whose hit songs include "Kamala," "I Deserve to be Alive," and "Can You Rock Me Like a Pothole".

She's a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, and believes art is the most natural form of healing of which she is a proud practitioner.



## *Kevin Frazier*

Co-host of "Entertainment Tonight"

Kevin Frazier is co-host of the Emmy Award-winning syndicated entertainment newsmagazine Entertainment Tonight. Frazier joined ET as co-host in September 2014, coinciding with the beginning of the 34th season. In addition to his position on ET, where he has won six Emmy Awards, Frazier has kept busy hosting numerous shows and events. Frazier hosted Emmy-nominated "Game Changers With Kevin Frazier," which spotlighted professional athletes who use their public image to make positive changes in the lives of fans in need.

In 2008, Frazier founded HipHollywood.com, the premiere online web site for the latest urban entertainment news.. Additionally, he launched Kevin Frazier Productions (KFP) to focus on in-depth reporting and video production for a variety of corporate and entertainment clients

Frazier is an active member of the Los Angeles civic community and frequently participates in events and speaking engagements for charitable organizations. He is also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.





## *Lonnie G. Bunch III*

### Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution

Lonnie G. Bunch III is the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian. He assumed his position June 16, 2019. As Secretary, he oversees 21 museums, 21 libraries, the National Zoo, numerous research centers, and several education units and centers. Two new museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum—are in development. Bunch was the founding director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. He chronicled the creation of the museum in his book, *A Fool’s Errand: Building the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump*, and is the first historian to be Secretary of the Institution.

In service to the historical and cultural community, Bunch has served on the advisory boards of the American Association of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History. In 2005, Bunch was named one of the 100 most influential museum professionals of the 20th century by the American Association of Museums. In 2020, he was given the Dan David Prize from Tel Aviv University. In 2021, he received France’s highest award, The Legion of Honor.



## *William F. (Bill) Bynum*

CEO, Hope Credit Union

Bill Bynum began his professional career in North Carolina by helping to establish Self-Help, a pioneer in the development finance industry, and later built nationally recognized programs at the NC Rural Economic Development Center. In 1994, he moved to Mississippi to become founding CEO of Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, and in 1995 organized Hope Community Credit Union.

Today, Bill leads HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Credit Union and Hope Policy Institute), a family of organizations that provides financial services; leverages private and public resources; engages in advocacy; and otherwise acts as a catalyst to fulfill its mission of strengthening communities, building assets, and improving lives throughout the Deep South, and mitigate the extent to which factors such as race, gender, birthplace and wealth limit one's ability to prosper.

Bynum serves as a member of the U.S. Treasury Department's Advisory Committee on Racial Equity, on the boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta - New Orleans branch, Aspen Institute, NAACP Legal & Education Defense Fund, Prosperity Now, Black Vision Fund, Mississippi Today, Churchill Capital IV and V, and as an advisor to Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo and E Pluribus Unum. A recipient of the John W. Gardner Leadership Award.



## *Hazel Dukes*

### President, the NAACP New York State Conference

Dr. Hazel N. Dukes is President of the NAACP New York State Conference and a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, a member of the NAACP Executive Committee and well as an active member of various NAACP board sub-committees. Dr. Dukes is a woman of great strength and courage. Her dedication to human rights and equality is exemplified by her role linking business, government and social causes. Dr. Dukes is an active and dynamic leader who is known for her unselfish and devoted track record for improving the quality of life in New York State.

A harsh system of civil and human injustice persists; intimidation, violence, and the recent rash of "nooses," speak to the widespread de facto absence of a civil and human rights agenda in America says Dukes, and the fires of frustration continue to burn. Dr. Dukes is President of the Hazel N. Dukes & Associates Consultant Firm, specializing in the areas of public policy, health and diversity.

Dr. Dukes is the recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding leadership activities, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, YWCA City of New York John La Farge Memorial Award for Interracial Justice, Guy R. Brewer Humanitarian Award, and the 2007 The Network Journal's 25 Most Influential Black Women in Business Award, member Ford Motor Company Funds Committee of Honor for Freedom's Sisters, was honored and received a Proclamation at the New York City Council's Third Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards ceremony at City Hall in New York.



## *Marian Wright-Edelman*

### Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The Children's Defense Fund's Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Mrs. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund.

Mrs. Edelman has received over a hundred honorary degrees and many awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, and the MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

She is a board member of the Robin Hood Foundation and the Association to Benefit Children, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.



## *Reena Evers-Everette*

Executive Director, Medgar And Myrlie Evers Institute

Reena Evers-Everette is the daughter of civil-rights activists Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams. Born in the Mississippi Delta in a progressive town of Mound Bayou. Ms. Evers-Everette studied business merchandising at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. In 1979 she began a 32-year professional career with United Airlines, working in the areas of government transportation affairs, travel agency training and airport operations.

She is now executive director of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute in Jackson, MS., the same city where she saw her father assassinated at their home in 1963. The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute continues to push for positive social change, exchanges across generational lines, and social and economic justice.

Some of her civic and volunteer involvements include former chairman of the board of directors of the Claremont Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the City of Claremont's Committees on Dialogue and Human Relation, Sojourn to the Past, Board Chair MS Votes Action Fund Board member, and a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Global Community Leadership Fellow.



## *Secretary Deb Haaland*

### U.S. Secretary of the Interior

Secretary Deb Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th generation New Mexican.

As a single mother, Secretary Haaland volunteered at her child's pre-school to afford early childhood education. Like many parents, she had to rely on food stamps at times as a single parent, lived paycheck-to-paycheck, and struggled to put herself through college. At the age of 28, Haaland enrolled at the University of New Mexico (UNM) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in English and later earned her J.D. from UNM Law School. Secretary Haaland and her child, who also graduated from the University of New Mexico, are still paying off student loans .

After running for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, Secretary Haaland became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a State Party. She is one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress. In Congress, she focused on environmental justice, climate change, missing and murdered indigenous women, and family-friendly policies.



## *Eric Holder*

### Former United States Attorney General

Eric H. Holder, Jr. serves as Chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. Mr. Holder is an internationally recognized leader on a broad range of legal issues and a staunch advocate for civil rights. He served in the Obama Administration as the 82nd Attorney General of the United States from February 2009 to April 2015, the third longest-serving Attorney General in U.S. history and the first African American to hold that office.

Under Mr. Holder's leadership, civil rights, including voting rights, were a top priority at the Justice Department. Mr. Holder vigorously defended voting rights, including the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He criticized politically motivated voter ID laws that were designed to suppress minority and youth votes, and he led the Justice Department's efforts to overturn these laws around the country.

Mr. Holder served in government for more than thirty years, having been appointed to various positions requiring U.S. Senate confirmation by Presidents Obama, Clinton, and Reagan. He began his legal career at the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Justice Department. In 1988, President Reagan appointed him to serve as a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Holder was also awarded the NAACP's Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a member of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's National Board of Directors.



## *Ray Mabus*

### Former Secretary of the U.S. Navy

Ray Mabus served as the 75th United States Secretary of the Navy, the longest to serve as leader of the Navy and Marine Corps since World War I.

Throughout his tenure, Secretary Mabus has focused on four key priorities - People, Platforms, Power and Partnerships – that enable the Navy and Marine Corps' unique ability to maintain the global presence that reassures our allies and deters our adversaries.

Responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$170 billion and leadership of almost 900,000 people, Secretary Mabus has worked to improve the quality of life of Sailors, Marines and their families; decrease the Department's dependence on fossil fuels; strengthen partnerships with industry and internationally; and increase the size of the Navy fleet.





## *James Meredith*

### Civil Rights Activist

James Meredith is an American hero. Born in Attala County, Mississippi in 1933, he enlisted in the United States Air Force after graduating from high school and rose to the rank of staff sergeant.

Meredith applied to the University of Mississippi after attending Jackson State University, a historically Black college school in Mississippi. His mission in 1962 was to break the system of white supremacy, a move which involved a long and bitter court battle against Mississippi. After the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in Meredith's favor, President John Kennedy sent several hundred U.S. Marshals and more than 30-thousand troops to ensure Meredith was enrolled and attended classes safely.

Meredith's second mission was the 1966 "Meredith Walk Against Fear" from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi. Meredith's mission was to convince black people in Mississippi to register to vote; to not fear white supremacists who commonly used intimidation tactics against blacks who desired the constitutional right to vote. However, on the second day of the 220 mile walk, Meredith was shot by white supremacist, James Aubrey Norvell. Meredith was rushed to a Memphis hospital and several black leaders—including Reverend ML King and Stokely Carmichael—continued the march to Jackson. Along the way, thousands of people joined the leaders, many registering to vote.

Meredith has spent his whole life in the struggle to make every American a Full-First-Class Citizen, and has travelled the world studying and researching the question of race. Now he is on his next mission to organize the Meredith Bible Society where serves as President of the non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization focused on rebuilding black families and moral character uplift.



## *La June Montgomery-Tabrons*

President and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

La June Montgomery Tabron is the president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) in Battle Creek, Michigan, one of the largest private foundations in the United States. As a champion for vulnerable children and for creating the conditions necessary for them to thrive, Tabron leads the Kellogg Foundation and its work to ensure the optimal development of young children from birth to age 8, heal the profound racial inequities in communities, and cultivate community leaders and community-led solutions that support educated kids, healthy kids, and economically secure families.

Prior to becoming the first African American president and CEO to lead the foundation in its 89-year history, she served in a variety of positions during her more than 30-year career at the Kellogg Foundation. Currently, Tabron serves on the board of the Kellogg Company and chairs the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Trust. She also serves on various boards of Battle Creek Community Health Partners as well as the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan Board.



## *Mildred Bond-Roxborough*

Former Director of Programs, NAACP

Mrs. Roxborough was the longest serving staff member at the NAACP. Mrs. Roxborough's family background included a tradition of African American empowerment; her mother's family founded Tollette, Arkansas, which was a post-Reconstruction, all-African American town, while her own parents chartered Brownsville, Tennessee's first chapter of the NAACP. At the age of nine, Roxborough began selling subscriptions to *The Crisis*, the official publication of the NAACP. Mrs. Roxborough received her undergraduate degree at Howard University and Washington Square College of New York University, finishing in 1947; she received her M.A. degree from Columbia University in 1953.

Mrs. Roxborough's career at the NAACP began with her position as national staff field secretary in 1954 and she served as director of development from 1986 until her retirement in 1997. Despite her retirement, Mrs. Roxborough, a mainstay of the organization, remained intimately involved with the planning and core operations of the annual NAACP National Convention and the organization's New York Bureau.

In addition to her service to and lifetime membership in the NAACP, Mrs. Roxborough served as vice chairman of Intergroup Corporation, and on the boards of America's Charities and Morningside Retirement and Health, Incorporated. Roxborough's honors and awards included the James Weldon John-son Medal; the Medgar Wiley Evers Award; and America's Charities Distinguished Service Award.



## *Gloria Steinem*

Writer, political activist, and feminist organizer

Gloria Steinem is a writer, lecturer, political activist, and feminist organizer. She has spent decades traveling in this and other countries as an organizer and lecturer and is a frequent media spokeswoman on issues of equality. She is particularly interested in the shared origins of sex and race caste systems, gender roles and child abuse as roots of violence, non-violent conflict resolution, the cultures of indigenous peoples, and organizing across boundaries for peace and justice. She lives in New York City.



## *Congressman Bennie Thompson*

United States Representative from Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District

A Congressman Bennie G. Thompson is an elected member of the United States House of Representatives from Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District. Congressman Thompson claimed his seat in the House on April 20, 1993. He is a native of Bolton, Mississippi, and considers it an honor to walk the path Mississippi civil rights icons paved decades ago. Congressman Thompson understands the challenges many families in Mississippi face each and every day.

Serving his 15th term in the United States House of Representatives, Congressman Thompson has spent his entire career fighting to improve the lives of all people. He is the longest-serving African American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation. He began his grassroots political activism being a civil rights champion through the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a student at Tougaloo College. He organized voter registration drives for African Americans throughout the Mississippi Delta on behalf of the organization before graduating and following in the footsteps of his mother by becoming a schoolteacher.

In 2000, Thompson was a lead author and sponsor of a measure that created the National Center for Minority Health and Health Care Disparities. Congressman Thompson served on the Agriculture, Budget, and Small Business Committees before assuming the top Democratic position on Homeland Security in 2005. Congressman Thompson was promoted to serve as the first-ever Democratic Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee by his colleagues.

Most recently, Congressman Thompson received the Chairman's Award during the 2023 NAACP Image Award and the Vanguard of Justice Award at the Mississippi Center for Justice's 20th anniversary event. These honors recognize Thompson's advocacy for civil rights.



## *Ambassador Andrew Young*

Former Atlanta Mayor and UN Ambassador

Ambassador Andrew Young's humanitarian efforts and influence have spanned the globe. From his beginnings as an ordained minister and top aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement to his current position as founding principal and chair of GoodWorks International, an organization that embraces his long-held mission of facilitating economic development in the Caribbean and Africa, Ambassador Young has dedicated himself to improving the lives of all people, particularly those in Africa and the Diaspora.

Ambassador Young has received honorary degrees from more than 60 institutions, including his alma mater, Howard University, Swarthmore College, Duke University, Emory University, Clark Atlanta University, the University of Georgia and Morehouse College, which named its Center for International Affairs in his honor.

While mayor of the City of Atlanta for two terms, Young helped attract 1100 new businesses and 70 billion dollars in private investments, and created one million new jobs. His leadership helped the City to earn the international reputation it holds today. The author of two books, *A Way Out of No Way* and *An Easy Burden*, and co-author of, *Walk in My Shoes*. Ambassador Young recently received the *Emmy for Lifetime Achievement*. Young continues to call Atlanta home where he lives with his wife, Carolyn McClain Young. He is the father of three daughters and one son and the grandfather of eight.