

# Proclamation



**WHEREAS**, Mississippi natives Medgar Wiley Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer are among the twelve Civil Rights Pioneers who were immortalized this month in a series of six First-Class commemorative postage stamps unveiled by the U.S. Postal Service during the NAACP's annual meeting in New York City; and

**WHEREAS**, Civil Rights icon Medgar Evers served as Mississippi's first NAACP field secretary, leading voter registration drives, organizing consumer boycotts, risking his life to investigate the murder of Emmett Till and other violent acts against African Americans, and actively supporting James Meredith's attempt to enroll at the University of Mississippi, which was forced to desegregate in 1962 – less than a year before Evers fell to an assassin's bullet at the age of 37; and

**WHEREAS**, Fannie Lou Hamer was a brilliant communicator and electrifying public speaker who helped organize the "Freedom Summer" initiative in 1964 and, as Vice-Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, brought national attention to the exclusion of African Americans from the State's delegation at the Democratic National Convention that year, thus laying the path for people of all races to actively participate in future presidential elections; and

**WHEREAS**, we commend and honor the legacies of Medgar Wylie Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer, true American Pioneers who made history through their personal sacrifices, teaching us that we all have the power, as individuals and as a community, to transform the lives of future generations by dedicating ourselves anew each day to the basic principles of justice, equality and liberty for all; and

**WHEREAS**, the issuance of these commemorative stamps highlights the historic 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NAACP, celebrates the immeasurable impact of the Civil Rights movement in bringing our nation closer to becoming "a more perfect union," and underscores the triumph of Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer and their fellow Pioneers as it follows the rise to office of the first African American elected to serve as President of the United States:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Frank E. Melton, Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, do hereby proclaim Thursday, February 26, 2009 as

## **"MEDGAR EVERS/FANNIE LOU HAMER PIONEERS OF CIVIL RIGHTS DAY"**

in "The City of Grace and Benevolence" and urge all citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

*Given under my hand and seal of the City of Jackson, Mississippi,*

the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009



Frank E. Melton, Mayor