

## DAY 1- SUNDAY

The tour begins at the Greyhound Bus stop where, in 1961, Freedom Riders were immediately arrested when they tried to use the white-only facilities at the depot.

Next we drive by the Mississippi State Capitol, the Woolworth's department store site where sit-ins occurred, and the site of the proposed Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Mississippi Museum of History.

Our final stop in Jackson will be [the home of Medgar Evers](#). Mr. Evers was the first field secretary for the NAACP in Jackson at the time of his death, June 12, 1963.

### **Opening Reception Keynote and Panel Discussion:**

The opening dinner and reception feature a keynote presentation by speakers such as Jackson Clarion-Ledger Investigative Reporter Jerry Mitchell as well as a panel discussion featuring members of the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, LLC.

In our 2017 tour, Mr. Mitchell's keynote discussion will address his work that helped put four Klansmen behind bars: Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers; Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers, for ordering the fatal firebombing of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer in 1966; Bobby Cherry, for the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church that killed four girls; and Edgar Ray Killen, for helping organize the June 21, 1964 killings of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner (popularized by the fictional movie about that case, Mississippi Burning).

The Mississippi Civil Rights Veterans Panel will feature Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement members. The Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, LLC is a non-profit organization that focuses on commitment to service and preserving the history of the Mississippi Movement. Members serve as educators, public servants, and community activists and share a desire to help provide leadership as practitioners, counselors, and mentors in the ongoing pursuit of human rights.

The Mississippi Civil Rights Veterans Panel in 2017 features the Chairman of the organization, Mr. Hollis Watkins. In 1961, at the age of 19, Mr. Watkins was the first Mississippi student to become involved in the Mississippi Voting Rights Project of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In recent years, Mr. Watkins has played a major role in keeping the music of the civil rights movement alive. Having been sustained by music when he was hanging from handcuffs in a cell in Parchman prison in the 60's, he includes the musical traditions of the civil rights movement into the struggle of today, making it part of his organizing and bringing its message to a new generation of activists.