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People's Voice

of Perry County - serving Dallas, Hale & Wilcox Counties!

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Honoring Jimmie Lee Jackson Perry County Civic League



Black History Month 2009

Jimmie Lee Jackson Program - February 15, 2009

In February 1965, a young man by the name of Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot in a little town called Marion, Alabama, north of Selma. This young man was shot and died defending his grandmother during the night of a voter's rights rally at Zion United Methodist Church. He was shot and killed by an Alabama State Trooper, who has recently been scheduled to go on trial soon, in Perry County Alabama.

Albert Turner Sr. was a Marion, AL resident and President of the Perry County Civic League in 1965. He was outraged at the events that had taken place so he began organizing the civic league to take action. A decision was made to "take Jimmie's body to the state capital, and dump it on the steps" stated Mr. Turner. The Civic League had been working closely with others fighting for civil rights, therefore, Mr. Turner contacted Dr. King and he thought they should organize, and go to Montgomery in a mass protest of his Jimmie Lee's murder. Mr. Turner said, "We were just kind of like in war, to be frank with you, and we were determined, really, to break the system down".

Early morning on Sunday, March 7, 1965, a long caravan of cars headed towards Selma from Marion, with lunches and clothing in hand. When they arrived, they found out that Dr. King had decided not to go to Montgomery on that day. Dr. King said they needed more preparation to make such a long journey, and they should postpone the trip to a later date.

Mr. Turner had gathered the forces. They were in large numbers and ready to make their point, ready to fight for the right - to be treated equal, and they were ready now! Residents of Perry County and the Civic League members had trained hard mentally for a day like that Sunday; and were not turning back. "So in all fairness, I was the individual who seriously insisted we had to march in some form or fashion, that day, to keep from killing the movement" this was a direct quote from the civic league president, and leader. Mr. Turner called Dr. King and told him what the situation was and we explained to him why they had to walk.

It was on! The plan was to stay in two's as they marched. Hosea Williams and John Lewis led that day and Mr. Albert Turner Sr. was second (shown in photo on left). This is one day they knew what was going to happen before they left. Jimmie was dead, so they expected more to be killed. Midway over the bridge, they were met with confrontation.... Hence, "Bloody Sunday". This one event March 7, 1965 shook the conscience of this nation. Nothing in America has ever happened in history that gained as much support as the Selma to Montgomery march, until 2009, with the election of President Barack Obama, 44th President - 44 Years later!

More Black History Events - Inside this Issue