

FREEDOM MEANS



**VOTE FOR
FANNIE LOU HAMER**

LYNDON JOHNSON PRESIDENT

HUBERT HUMPHREY VICE-PRESIDENT

AARON HENRY SENATE

FANNIE LOU HAMER CONGRESS 2nd DIST. ANNIE DEVINE CONGRESS 4th DIST.

VICTORIA GRAY CONGRESS 5th DIST.

FREEDOM VOTE, OCT. 31 - NOV. 2

REGULAR ELECTION NOV. 3

FANNIE LOU HAMER (1917-1977)

Resistance. Arrested. Beaten. 1964. Democratic National Convention. *"We didn't come all this way for no two seats!"* The rules changed.

GLASS CEILING: Pronunciation: 'glas, sE-li[ng] **Function:** noun
Date: 1984 an intangible barrier within the hierarchy of a company that prevents women or minorities from obtaining upper-level positions; also often used wider with metaphoric applications.



NOTABLE FACTS ON HER LIFE AND LEGACY:

1917 Fannie Lou Townsend is born in Montgomery County, Mississippi.

1944 Fannie Lou marries Pap Hamer.

1962 She hears James Bevel of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLS) speak at a mass meeting about black people's right as human beings and American citizens to vote. She is galvanized.

1962 At the age of 45 Hamer seeks to register to vote. She goes to Indianola, Mississippi to do so. Sixteen shots are fired at the home at which she is staying.

1963 She begins working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She is arrested and beaten at a bus station in Winona, Mississippi on her way back from a voter registration training.

1964 She organizes with others the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

1964 On national television August 24 she rivets the nation as she addresses the Democratic National Convention credentials committee. MFDP delegates

have been denied seating on the convention floor. The delegates refuse to accept two at-large seats offered, perceiving a token gesture. As a result of the publicity, the party is shaken by the exposure of its discriminatory practice.

1964 She runs for Congress. Although she loses, she receives 30,000 votes.

1965 Voting Rights Act passed.

1968 At the 1968 convention in Chicago, MFDP delegates return as the Mississippi Loyalist Democratic Party. A debate over seating again takes place, and this time MLDP wins. Fannie Lou Hamer is given her seat, and to a standing ovation she addresses the entire convention.

1969 She buys forty acres of farmland in Mississippi and founds the Freedom Farm Cooperative.

1969 She is awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Morehouse College.

1971 She is elected to the Central Committee of the National Women's

Political Caucus.

speaks at her funeral. "None of us would have been where we are now had she not been there then."

1977 Hamer dies of cancer. United Nations ambassador Andrew Young

VOCABULARY

- **cooperative:** An enterprise or organization owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its service.
- **grass roots:** 1: The very foundation or source 2: The basic level of society or of an organization especially as viewed from higher or more centralized positions of power.
- **protest:** a solemn declaration of opinion and usually of dissent.
- **resist:** To exert force in opposition; *passive resistance:* resistance especially to a government or an occupying power characterized mainly by noncooperation.
- **sharecropper:** A tenant farmer especially in the southern U.S. who is provided with credit for seed, tools, living quarters, and food, who works the land, and who receives an agreed share of the value of the crop minus charges.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Books

- Fiorelli, June Estep. *Fannie Lou Hamer: A Voice for Freedom*. Avisson: 2004.
- Lee, Chana Kai *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*. University of Illinois, 2000.
- Mills, Kay. *This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*. Plume: 1994.

Websites

- <http://www.beejae.com/hamer.htm>
- <http://www.howard.edu/library/reference/guides/hamer/>
- <http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/sayitplain/flhamer.html>



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Made possible by funding from PNC Arts Alive. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Sponsored in part by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.



Special thanks to Palm Beach County Commissioners and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County for support through the Cultural Resiliency Fund.



For more information about the Core Ensemble, go to:
www.coreensemble.com