

MFP-007

Interviewee: Stacy White

Interviewer: Khambria Clarke

Date of Interview: September 12, 2008

C: I'm Khambria Clarke, and I'm here with Stacy White, the organizer of this whole event. And I guess my question for you is, this event has been going on for a couple years, how important is it to preserve the histories of this area, the Mississippi Delta?

W: It's very important to preserve the history because so many of our civil rights veterans are passing on, and when they pass on their stories pass along with them. So, it's important to preserve their stories, and I think what you all are doing is a great, great service to us. Because the students need to know what took place many years ago, and that people came down, Freedom Summer volunteers and also local people who were active in the movement, in that they weren't always able to go to McDonald's and eat or ride in an airplane or sit in a restaurant. People paved the way to make this possible.

C: And as younger generations are getting older, and older generations are passing on, how do you plan to bring future generations into the program?

W: Well, what has taken place in Mississippi is that the legislature has passed a bill stating that civil rights has to be taught in the curriculum in the public schools, so what will happen is that each community, each town will develop a civil rights curriculum. And then the students will learn about their local history as it relates to the civil rights movement. For example, what took place in Indianola—what took place in regards to civil rights in Indianola—may be different from what took

place in Grenada, Mississippi. So Mississippi is taking a step forward in putting civil rights into the curriculum, and mandating that it must be taught.

C: You're here serving your community; how important is that?

W: Well, I think public service is very important. As a young girl, my mother and father taught me the importance of public service. So public service is essential. I think all youth, all adults should be involved in public service.

C: And I just want to thank you for allowing us to share in this experience because it has been a great one.

W: Thank you.

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