

The Courage and Vision of Medgar Evers

continued ▲ *from page 18*

know that in Mississippi and elsewhere some people are resorting to Jim Crow-era tactics to disenfranchise voters in a desperate attempt to reverse 50 years of hard earned political progress.

He would be pleased to know that all public schools are technically available to all children and that many school systems are even led by black administrators. But he would be dismayed to learn that even so, many black children are still getting a separate, unequal, and

failing education.

He might smile at the number of black doctors, lawyers, and millionaires in Mississippi now, but would be disappointed to know the state also has the highest child poverty, low birth weight, and infant mortality rates. He would also be so sad to see the number of young, middle-aged, and older black men in Mississippi's prisons, trapped in a prison pipeline leading to social and economic death.

He would be relieved to know black Mississippians no longer live in constant fear of the Ku Klux

Klan and the kind of white supremacist terrorism that took his life. But he would be alarmed by the proliferation of gun violence that still keeps residents of many black communities locked in their homes after dark in a new kind of American terror.

And he would be dismayed by the resurgence of hate crimes like the cruel hit-and-run death of James Craig Anderson, a black man assaulted and then run over in 2011 by a group of young white men who made a habit of coming to Jackson to assault and harass black people

for sport. But he would be proud that they, unlike his own killer, were brought to justice swiftly by the county district attorney, the son of black civil rights pioneers.

In some ways the battles of the Civil Rights Movement were easier to fight 50 years ago because they were easier to see. Today the rigid lines that create two systems of opportunity for children in Mississippi and elsewhere are no longer written into law but remain present and the children know it. One group of children is still tracked towards limited opportunity, second class

citizenship, and the invisible but powerful cradle to school to prison pipeline.

Strong adult voices for children have to become a stronger and stronger force if the clock of racial and economic progress is not to continue to move backwards. The fabric of family and community must be rewoven and the child must be placed at the center of all of our concerns.

Medgar Evers remains a beacon for all of us who are still inspired by his example and vision. We must not let all he lived and died for recede on our watch.

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CALENDAR for February 2013

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

17	18 ● <i>Presidents Day</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24 Purim	25	26 ○	27	28		



March 2013

3 <i>National Anthem Day</i> Patricia MacLachlan born, 1938 Inventor Alexander Graham Bell born, 1847	4 ● First meeting of Congress (1789)	5 Boston Massacre (1770) Dav Pilkey born, 1966 Mem Fox born, 1946	6 Oreo Cookies Sold for the 1st time in 1912. Artist Michelangelo born, 1475	7 National Cereal Day Scientist Luther Burbank born, 1849 Telephone Patent Granted (1876)	8 <i>Working Women's Day</i> Robert Sabuda born, 1965	9 Explorer Amerigo Vespucci born, 1454 Barbie's Birthday (1959)
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1 <i>Share a Smile Day</i> Justin Bieber born, 1994 Peace Corps Anniversary Yellowstone National Park Es. (1872)	2 Iditarod Race Begins Dr. Seuss born, 1904 Read Across America Day
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