

James Meredith
2016

African American/Black History Month



My answer to the racial problem in America is to not deal with it at all. The founding fathers dealt with it when they made the Constitution.

(James Meredith)



James Meredith
Club Hood Ballroom
25 February 2016





2016 III Corps and Fort Hood African American/Black History Month Observance

Master of Ceremony

Specialist Brown
85th Civil Affairs Brigade

Invocation

Chaplain (Major) Zachary
85th Civil Affairs Brigade

National Anthem

Captain Karchaske and Master Sergeant Holloway
85th Civil Affairs Brigade

Choir

Destiny World Outreach Center Praise Team

Opening Remarks/ Introduction of Guest Speaker

Colonel Brent Bartos
Commander, 85th Civil Affairs Brigade

Guest Speaker

James Meredith

Poem Competition Results/ Reading

Mr. Branden Mann from First Command and Awardees

Awards Presentation and Closing Remarks

Colonel Brent Bartos

Benediction

Chaplain (Major) Zachary

Army Song

1st Cav Band

"Strength Through Diversity"

James Meredith



James H. Meredith, a black, nine year Air Force veteran, applied for admission to the University of Mississippi in January 1961. Denied admission because of his race he sued and won a court battle for admission in June 1962. The college administration and the state government of Mississippi refused to recognize his court ordered victory and physically barred him from campus. They were joined by a violent mob of local residents and outsiders that supported racial segregation.

US Marshals were ordered to the campus to enforce the court order. They were quickly outnumbered and assaulted by the mobs who at times numbered over 2,000 people. The mob used fire bombs, gunfire, stones and bricks in their attacks. One-hundred and sixty of the marshals were injured while performing their duties, some seriously. There was even one incident where the chief US Marshal accompanying Mr. Meredith was blocked from the registrar building by the Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi, commanding a platoon of Mississippi State Police.

Local National Guard units were federalized and brought in to assist the US Marshals. Being comprised of local citizen soldiers, they were also ineffective at suppressing the mobs that formed to block Mr. Meredith's access to the campus. It was then that President John F. Kennedy made the decision to federalize the regular military and send them in to gain control the situation.

Before it was over, the unrest resulted in a lightning invasion of Mississippi by 30,000 U.S. combat troops, which was more soldiers than the U.S. had in Korea, and six times more soldiers than were stationed in Berlin, Germany. The operation resulted in 375 military and civilian casualties, 300 civilian arrests, and two innocent civilians being killed in circumstances that are a mystery to this day.

On 27 September at Fort Hood, Texas, a Battalion Headquarters Detachment was alerted for a possible full deployment to Oxford with the issuance of Movement Order No. 9-5, by III Corps, Headquarters Fort Hood. On 29 September at 1800 hours the Battalion was alerted to prepare for movement to Oxford, Mississippi. On 30 September at 1600 hours the Battalion departed Fort Hood for Oxford, Mississippi with the 501st MP Company, two squads from the 502nd MP Company, and a medical detachment from the 2nd Armored Division with elements of the 501st Military Intelligence Detachment. The Task Force was responsible for the successful admittance of Mr. James Meredith into Ole Miss.

This event was brought to you through a joint effort between the 85th Civil Affairs Brigade, 89th MP Brigade, and the III Corps EO team.

Special Thanks to:

Destiny World Outreach Center Praise Team

For providing gospel songs

1ST Cav Band

For the opening and closing music

First Command

For providing the trophies for the poem competition

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