



FANNIE LOU HAMER  
STATUE COMMITTEE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*



## **Fannie Lou Hamer Statue Unveiling Set for October 5, 2012**

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**Ruleville, MS** (August 20, 2012) – The Fannie Lou Hamer Statue Committee and Hanlon Sculpture Studio announced plans today to unveil a statue of Civil Rights Leader and Human Rights Advocate Fannie Lou Hamer on October 5, 2012 at the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Garden in Ruleville, MS.

Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies at the Richard Stockton College of NJ and Chair of the National Committee expressed her appreciation to committee members and Hanlon Sculpture Studio for their commitment and dedication to the completion of the project.

"This has been a very long and arduous journey. All of us were committed to doing whatever was needed to ensure the success of this project," stated Reid-Merritt. "We wanted to uplift the Hamer legacy. A very small group of scholars and community activists from across the nation worked on this project for the past two years. It's amazing to witness what a small group of dedicated individuals can do. We are overwhelmed and ecstatic to see that this monument to Mrs. Hamer is nearing completion and thankful to all who helped make it possible."

The eight foot tall bronze statue is being created by nationally-acclaimed sculptor Brian Hanlon and will be mounted on a four foot tall granite base containing etched pictures and text of Hamer's life.

"I have a great interest in creating sculptures of pioneers and leaders in their respective fields, and this statue honoring the life of Fannie Lou Hamer is well deserved and long overdue. It is my hope that this monument will educate and inspire for generations to come."

A national fund-raising drive by the statue committee is nearing completion to cover the costs of the monument and surrounding area since it began on February 1, 2010. The ROAR Foundation Inc. had organized the statue committee in October 2009. The fiscal sponsor for the project is the National Black United Fund.

### **About The Fannie Lou Hamer Statue Committee**

The Fannie Lou Hamer Statue Committee (FLHSC) is a not-for-profit, non political organization comprised of local, regional and national civil rights activists, scholars and community leaders who serve as fund-raising and educational ambassadors in conjunction with the City of Ruleville, County of Sunflower, public, private and individual initiatives to help achieve the goals of the Fannie Lou Hamer Statue project.

Fannie Lou Hamer Statue Committee  
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The FLHSC exists solely for the purpose of supporting efforts to honor and pay tribute to Mrs. Hamer by commissioning the construction of a full-length statue of the civil and human rights leader, to be placed on permanent display at the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Garden in Ruleville, Mississippi. For more information about the committee and the

Hamer statue project, visit: [www.fannielouhamer.info/hamer\\_statue](http://www.fannielouhamer.info/hamer_statue).



### **About Hanlon Sculpture Studio**

Brian Hanlon is a classically trained Master Sculptor and founder of Hanlon Sculpture Studio, located in Toms River, NJ. In business since 1991, Brian has sculpted over 300 public art pieces, specializing in bronze statues, and is the Official Sculptor for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Hanlon's recent completions include statues of Shaquille O'Neal at LSU, Steve Gleason for the New Orleans Saints, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Carol Ann Drazba for Scranton, PA, Yogi Berra at the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center, Public Safety Monument for Westminster, CO, Bob Cousy at Holy Cross, Leavander Johnson for Atlantic City, NJ, Michael Horrocks at West Chester University, George Rogers for Liberty University, and the Bearcat mascot at Binghamton University. Current projects include, a statue for the San Diego Padres, Jody Conradt for the University of Texas, a Golden Panther for Florida International University, Kyleigh Sousa and Yeardeley Love. For more information, please visit: [www.hanlonsculpture.com](http://www.hanlonsculpture.com)

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