



## Proclamation

### Honoring Spalding County Resident Reginald J. Jones

- WHEREAS,** Into the mid-1960s Southern state legislatures had passed and maintained a series of discriminatory requirements and practices that had disenfranchised most of the millions of African-Americans across the South since the turn of the century.
- WHEREAS,** African-American groups launched a voters-registration campaign in Selma, Alabama in 1963, and finding resistance by white officials to be intractable, even after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended legal segregation, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and activists of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were invited to join such voter-registration groups, bringing many prominent civil rights and civic leaders to Selma in January 1965; and,
- WHEREAS,** James Bevel, who was directing the Selma Voting Rights Movement, called for a march of dramatic length, from Selma to the state capital of Montgomery and the first march took place on March 7, 1965, during which State troopers and county possemen attacked about 600 unarmed marchers with billy clubs and tear gas after they passed over the Norman Pettus Bridge and into Dallas County, Alabama, such event becoming known as **Bloody Sunday**; and
- WHEREAS,** A second march took place March 9, 1965, and that night a white group beat and murdered civil rights activist James Reeb, a minister from Boston, who had come to Selma to march with the second group; and
- WHEREAS,** A third march to Montgomery started on March 21, 1965, and with Governor George Wallace refusing to protect the marchers, but President Lyndon B. Johnson committed to doing so, protected by 2,000 soldiers of the U.S. Army, 1,900 members of the Alabama National Guard under Federal command, and many FBI agents and Federal Marshals, the marchers averaged 10 miles per day along U.S. Route 80, known in Alabama as the "Jefferson Davis Highway," and the marchers arrived at the Alabama State Capitol on March 25, 1965. With thousands having joined the campaign, 25,000 people entered the capital city that day in support of voting rights. The route is memorialized as the "Selma To Montgomery Voting Rights Trail," and is designated as a U.S. National Historic Trail; and
- WHEREAS,** Reginald J. Jones, a resident of Spalding County, was a teenage "foot soldier" in the third, 0successful march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama and participated in establishing and memorializing historic events and places 50 years ago; and
- WHEREAS,** In February 2015 both houses of the United States Congress voted for a resolution to award Congressional Gold Medals to the "foot soldiers" of the Selma campaign;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County that this Proclamation be publicly read and presented to Reginald J. Jones and that a copy of this Proclamation recognizing and commemorating Reginald J. Jones' courageous and historic contributions to the cause of freedom and liberty for all persons, to the States of Alabama and Georgia, to the United States of America and to Spalding County, be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, and that the Board of Commissioners does hereby urge its citizenry to convey their appreciation to Reginald J. Jones for such courage and contributions.



  
Rita Johnson, Chairperson

  
William P. Wilson, Jr., County Manager



Commissioner Donald  
Hawbaker presented

Reginald J. Jones

with a Proclamation  
recognizing his  
participation in the  
March 21, 1965 Civil Rights  
March from Selma to  
Montgomery, Alabama.

The Proclamation was  
presented at the  
Juneteenth Celebration of  
the African-American  
Cultural Education Society,  
the Sun City Peachtree  
Chapter, on Friday,  
June 19, 2015.