

Donate to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center

EMMETT TILL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

RACIAL RECONCILIATION BEGINS BY TELLING THE TRUTH

Community Gathers to Commemorate Emmett Till



Memorial wreaths are placed near the river at Graball Landing, commemorating the location where Emmett's body was recovered.

Photo credit: Matt Switliski

Community members from across Mississippi and beyond came together on Saturday, August 31st, to commemorate the life and legacy of Emmett Till. Hosted by the Emmett Till Interpretive Center in partnership with [We2Gether Creating Change](#) and [the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument](#), the event began with a ceremony at Graball Landing, believed to be the site where Emmett's body was recovered. Speakers included William Cheek, Acting Superintendent of the Till

National Monument; Gloria Dickerson, Founder and CEO of We2Gether Creating Change; a student attendee of the Mississippi Delta Film Academy; and Rev. Andy Andrews, Diocesan Missioner for Becoming Beloved Communities and Congregational Vitality in Mississippi. They reflected on the impact of Emmett Till and the importance of remembrance. The program also included choral performances by the Tougaloo College Legacy Chorale and the Mississippi Valley State Valley Singers.

The ceremony concluded with a laying of wreaths near the river.

“It was just over a year ago when the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument was established to preserve, interpret, and enhance public understanding of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley's powerful stories,” said William Cheek, Acting Superintendent of the Till National Monument. “As we take time this week to commemorate the 69th anniversary of Emmett's death, I would like to reiterate the National Park Service's commitment to collaborating with communities and organizations to engage, inspire, and educate the public about the Till legacy and the civil rights movement galvanized by Emmett's death.”



The Mississippi Valley State Valley Singers perform.
Photo credit: Matt Switliski

Thereafter the attendees caravanned to the barn near Drew where Emmett was beaten and murdered. Rev. Daryl Johnson, Pastor of the Walk of Faith Covenant Church, led the crowd in somber call and response, and Tina Steele gave a stirring solo vocal performance. Community members were

then encouraged to take a rose and lay it in the barn. A community luncheon in downtown Drew closed out the day's scheduled events.

“This event is a profound reminder that while we honor Emmett Till's memory, we must also commit ourselves to the ongoing work of racial healing and reconciliation,” said Patrick Weems, ETIC's Executive Director. “True healing requires us to confront our history honestly and work together to create a more just and inclusive future for all.”

We are grateful to our partners and staff, especially Venita Halbert, ETIC's Community Engagement Coordinator, who was instrumental in organizing this event. "I'm excited to be a part of developing a space in our community that allows us as a whole to honor Emmett Till and the strength that his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, exemplified in a time where we did not have this privilege," she said. "I'm glad we are providing space and time to be able to say Emmett's name out loud and proud in the communities where this tragedy occurred."

Check out *The Delta News's* [article](#) on the event. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) and social media for information about next year's commemoration to mark the 70th anniversary of Emmett's kidnapping and murder.



Photo credit: Matt Switliski

Emmett Till Interpretive Center Office Closed Until Sept. 23; Tours Still Available

Due to major construction on the building, the Emmett Till Interpretive Center office will be closed as of September 1st. Staff will still be available to give tours and speak with visitors. Find us on the second floor of the Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse from 12 PM to 5 PM Tuesday through Saturday. We expect to reopen on September 23rd. For more updates as they're available, visit our website and social media pages.

If you'd like to book a tour, you can do so [here](#). We look forward to seeing you in our space again after the renovations are complete!

More News

"Monuments & Justice" Panel Available on YouTube

The "Monuments & Justice" webinar from the National Trust for Historic Preservation is now available on [YouTube](#). The panel includes, among other speakers, ETIC Executive Director Patrick Weems and discussion of the creation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument. Watch the video below.



Emmett Till Exhibit at Smithsonian Closes September 15

Reckoning with Remembrance: History, Injustice, and the Murder of Emmett Till at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. will close on September 15th. That's less than two weeks to visit this powerful exhibit while it's still on display!



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