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South Carolina Releases “[Legacy of Courage](#)” Podcast Series, Outlining the State’s Critical Role in the Civil Rights Movement

Columbia – May 23, 2022 – In collaboration with the WeGOJA Foundation, [Discover South Carolina](#) and the [U.S. Civil Rights Trail](#) have launched a podcast series on South Carolina’s role in the civil rights movement, and the places you can visit to engage with some of this history.

Called “SC: A Legacy of Courage,” the three episodes outline events that helped push the nation into a civil rights crisis, and eventually led to the true movement in the mid- to late 20th century. It also points to historic sites, museums, markers, and other places where this history is interpreted and ready for visitors.

The podcasts are streaming on popular platforms like Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Stitcher and Amazon Music. Listeners can also catch it online at <https://sc-legacy-of-courage.simplecast.com/>.

Episode 1 in the series outlines how the Port Royal Experiment in Beaufort County and Reconstruction were noble attempts by the federal government to integrate the formerly enslaved into American citizenship. It also mentions how this significant social change led to a backlash in the late 19th century that rolled back rights for African Americans. Sites covered here include Penn Center on St. Helena Island, Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park on Hilton Head Island, the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park in Beaufort, and markers in Union County that interpret racial violence in South Carolina’s Upstate.

Episode 2 discusses the 1950s litigation that emerged in South Carolina to address inequality, including the Briggs vs. Elliott case in Clarendon County and the Flemming vs. SCE&G case in Columbia. It also points to the churches, halls, private homes and districts where meetings were held to discuss litigation strategy.

Episode 3 covers protests staged by citizens (mostly HBCU students) when litigation did not achieve equality in South Carolina. That included peaceful protests at the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia and the Orangeburg Massacre at South Carolina State University, where on Feb. 8, 1968, three students were killed and 28 others wounded when state police opened fire during a protest over a segregated bowling alley. This episode also mentions the labor strike at the Cigar Factory in Charleston, where a participant first sang the freedom song “We Shall Overcome.”

Some of the people interviewed in these podcasts are U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn, who was among the students protesting at South Carolina State University in the 1960s; Dr. Ophelia DeLaine Gona, historian, author and daughter of Rev. Joseph DeLaine, who led the Briggs vs. Elliott case in Clarendon County; and Michael Moore, a great-great-grandson of Civil War hero Robert Smalls.

More information about civil rights sites in South Carolina to visit can be found on the Discover South

Carolina website at <https://discoversouthcarolina.com/civil-rights> or in the GreenBookofSC.com by searching for “Civil Rights.”

About the WeGOJA Foundation

The WeGOJA Foundation identifies, documents and promotes African American history in South Carolina and helped produce the GreenBookofSC.com, an online travel guide to more than 400 African American historic sites in the state. In addition to the civil rights podcasts, the foundation is collaborating with the International African American Museum and Hub City Press to publish a paperback version of the Green Book of South Carolina; with the Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce and SC Sea Grant Consortium in the development of the Gullah Geechee Seafood Trail, and with North Carolina’s African American Heritage Commission to develop a toolkit as a resource for communities to identify and document extant sites advertised in the Negro Motorists Green Book. More at WeGOJA.org.

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