

## Statue of Civil Rights Icon Fannie Lou Hamer Unveiled

Written by Forward Times Staff  
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A life-sized bronze statue of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer is unveiled at the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Gardens in Ruleville, Miss., Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Hamer, who died of cancer in 1977, drew national attention in 1964 when she and other members of the racially integrated Freedom Democratic Party challenged the seating of Mississippi's all-white delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Photo Credit/Chance Wright, The Bolivar Commercial.

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**FANNIE LOU HAMER**

October 6, 1917 - March 14, 1977

Civil Rights Leader and Human Rights Advocate

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~~ON FILE: A statue of Fannie Lou Hamer, a civil rights leader, is unveiled in Natchez, Miss., Oct. 18, 2012. The statue is the first of its kind in the South. It is located in the city of Natchez, Miss., on the site of the former Fannie Lou Hamer State Office Building. The statue is a bronze sculpture of Hamer, a civil rights leader, standing with her arms raised in a gesture of protest. The statue is the work of artist Robert Ruffalo. The unveiling ceremony was held at the Natchez-Adams County Coliseum. The statue is a symbol of the struggle for civil rights in the South. Hamer was a leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) and was one of the first African American women to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was also a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Her death in 1980 was a major blow to the civil rights movement. The statue is a tribute to her legacy and the struggle for equality in the South.~~