

**“LOOK AROUND... WHAT CHANGE NEEDS TO HAPPEN?
GET ON THE BUS. MAKE IT HAPPEN.”** – CHARLES PERSON

A firsthand exploration of the cost of boarding the bus of change to move America forward – written by one of the Civil Rights Movement’s pioneers.

At 18, Charles Person was the youngest of the original Freedom Riders. This mix of activists – including future Congressman John Lewis, Congress of Racial Equality Director James Farmer, Reverend Benjamin Elton Cox, journalist and pacifist James Peck, and CORE field secretary Genevieve Hughes – set out by bus in 1961 to discover whether America would abide by a Supreme Court decision that ruled segregation unconstitutional in bus depots, waiting areas, restaurants and restrooms nationwide. They were met with violent opposition in the Southern states. One bus was burned to a shell; the second, which Person rode, was set upon by a mob that beat the Riders nearly to death.

Buses Are a Comin’ provides a front-row view of the struggle to belong in America, as Person leads his colleagues off the bus, into the station, into the mob, and into history to help defeat segregation’s violent grip on African American lives. The book is also a call to action from a teenager of a previous era to the young people of today: become agents of transformation. Stand firm. Create a more just and moral country where students have a voice, youth can make a difference, and everyone belongs.

Find out more about the book:

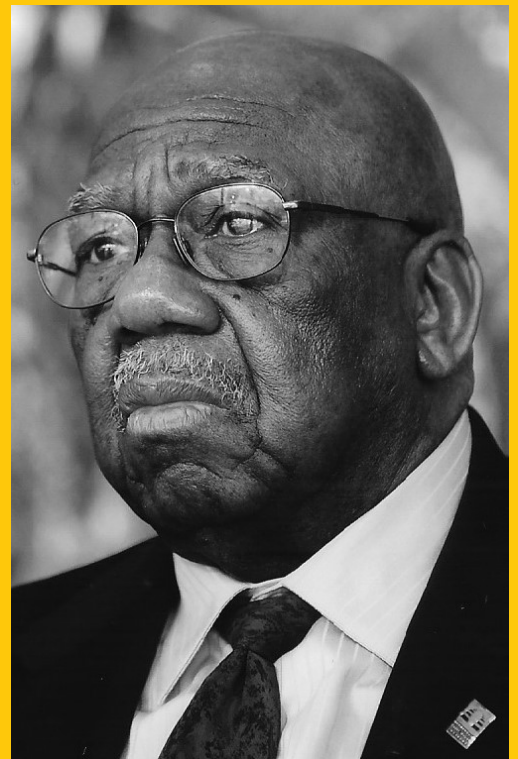
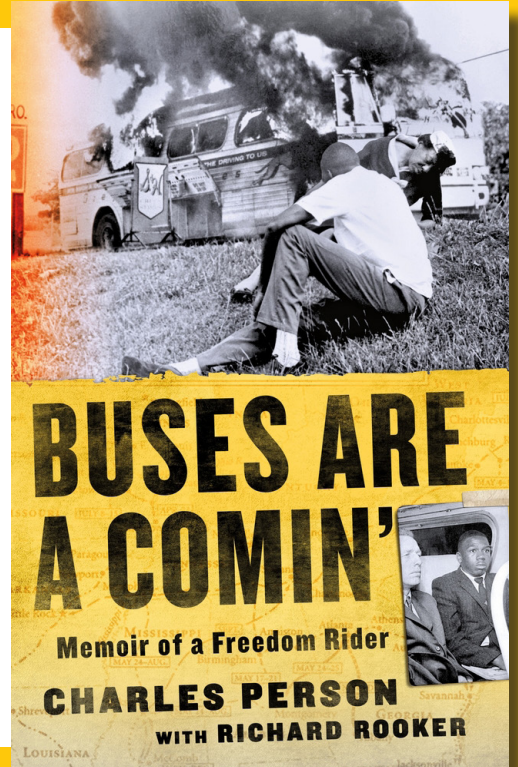
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CHARLES A. PERSON

Charles A. Person is a veteran of the Vietnam War and of the Civil Rights Movement. He saw action in Da Nang, Vietnam; Chu Lai, Okinawa; Washington, D.C.; Charlotte, NC; New Orleans, LA; and Atlanta, GA. During his days in the Civil Rights Movement, the Klu Klux Klan savagely beat him in Anniston, AL and again in Birmingham. Numerous medals and ribbons have been awarded to Person for his hard work and dedication. He retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1981 and remained at Guantanamo Bay Navy Base for three years, where he managed an electronic maintenance company. He then continued his career with the Atlanta Public School System as an electronic technician. Today, Person and his wife reside in his hometown of Atlanta and are the parents of five children. He is an activist within the community and the NAACP.



Since 2008, the LSBA has convened a Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The LSBA chose to host a “conclave” rather than a “meeting” because a conclave signifies “an assembly or gathering, especially one that has special authority, power, or influence.” The Conclave is designed to encourage a discussion among judges and attorneys (primarily hiring and managing attorneys within law firms and agencies) about diversity and inclusion issues arising within the profession, and the tools they can use to effectively manage diversity/inclusion issues arising in their offices and in their practices.