

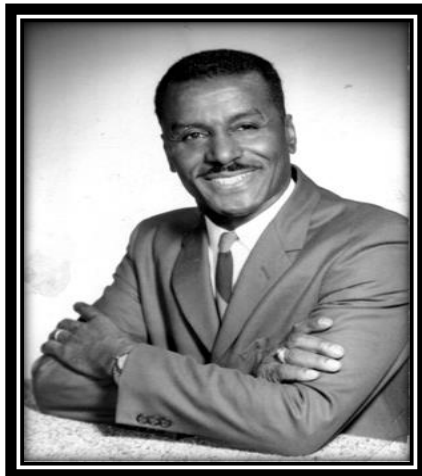
## PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

### FRED LEE SHUTTLESWORTH

*pastor, soldier, activist*

*“You are made by the struggles you choose”*

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#### Background Information

Born: March 18, 1922; Died: October 5, 2011

Shuttlesworth grew up with his mother who was very tough. She taught him to be combative, and this prepared him to take a lead in the civil rights movement. He served in World War II as a truck driver, and after the war he decided to be a minister. Shuttlesworth graduated from Selma University in 1952. In 1953, he graduated from Alabama State Teachers College and became the pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church. He moved to Birmingham and became an advocate for voter registration efforts, as well as the bus boycotts.

#### Shuttlesworth’s Resistance

Using his influence as a pastor, Shuttlesworth had a major impact on his community. In 1956, he founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR), which organized boycotts and lawsuits against segregation in Birmingham<sup>ii</sup>. In 1958, he was one of the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which focused on direct action against segregation through civil dissent<sup>iii</sup>.

Shuttlesworth and his wife, Ruby, tried to enroll their children at an all-White high school. They were attacked by a mob of Klansmen and other White supremacists from Birmingham. Shuttlesworth and Ruby were badly injured in the attack, and the police didn’t provide any protection. One of the attackers went on to be involved in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing that killed four young Black girls.

With the support of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), Shuttlesworth started a campaign against segregation through demonstrations and boycotts. He was always ready to fight for the rights of African Americans, even when others around him thought it was better to wait. His fiery personality and determination supported the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

#### Achievements

In 2001, President Clinton presented him with the Presidential Citizen’s Medal in recognition of his hard work and dedication to support the civil rights movement and end segregation. The Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport was named in his honor. Even after 1965, Shuttlesworth continued to fight for justice in Birmingham and Cincinnati, leaving behind a legacy of activism and courage<sup>iv</sup>.

