

# A new Mississippi state flag designed by a segregationist's granddaughter

Mississippi Senator John Stennis was a lead author of the 1954 "Southern Manifesto," railed against the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, advocated "massive resistance" to integration, and in 1983 joined three other Senate Democrats to vote against honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a national holiday. Jackson artist Lauren Stennis proposes a new design to replace the current state flag, which bears the Confederate symbol prominently.

Dixiecrat Strom Thurmond, the longest serving Senator in U.S. history who long insisted on referring to any black person as "negro" and led a coalition to defeat the 1964 Civil Rights Act, also made history for opposing the 1957 Civil Rights Act with a 24-hour filibuster speech. After nine black worshipers in a Charleston church were murdered, his son Paul Thurmond called on the state to remove the Confederate symbol from the Capitol.

Alabama governor George Wallace once pledged "segregation forever" and blocked black students from entering the University of Alabama. His daughter Peggy Wallace (pictured below) rejects racial prejudice in her household. "It can be hard to take all this on, but I want my children to have a different legacy than the one left to me."

