

Mary's Name to be Inscribed on the Wall of Tolerance

By Salvatore J. Russo

The American Civil Rights Movement was one of the nation's most important political and social causes in our nation's history. Through the personal sacrifices of many Americans from all races, colors, creeds and national origins, the goals of social equality for all was fought throughout our country. Proponents of social equality fought for their principles on many battle fields. They fought on the streets, in the schools, in the churches, and most importantly in the courts. Morris Dees, a caucasian lawyer and the son of a small Alabama cotton farmer, and his Southern Poverty Law Center, championed civil rights litigation which culminated in bankrupting the United Klans of America (Ku Klux Klan).

Recently, Nobel Prize winning author, Toni Morrison, wrote to Mary to request her permission to inscribe Mary's name to a wall which will honor Mr. Dees, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and others who played a role in the American Civil Rights Movement and who continue to fight hatred and racism in all forms today. The Wall of Tolerance is located in Montgomery, Alabama. The purpose of the wall is to give much deserved recognition to people who stand for justice and tolerance in their daily life. The Wall of Tolerance is in the same complex in Montgomery as the Civil Rights Memorial.

Mary has graciously consented to having her name placed on the wall. Mary's name will be inscribed in recognition of her important contribution to the ongoing fight against hatred and tolerance in America. The name of this diminutive Italian-American, wife, parent grandmother and activist will also serve as inspiration to all those who choose to take a stand against racism and intolerance. Congratulations, Mary! You continue to make all of us in CURE so proud.