

## ASU Black History Month Celebration 2016



Image: Rev. Charles Billups kneels in prayer along side Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth as their march in April of 1963 is stopped in front of the Federal Courthouse in Birmingham, AL (The Birmingham News file)

# Martin Luther King, Charles Billups, and the Miracle March in Birmingham: A Daughter Tells Her Story

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016 @ 4:30 p.m.**  
**Latti F. Coor Hall (COOR) 174, ASU Tempe campus**



Renee Billups Baker / Photo Frank Couch/fcouch@al.com in *The Birmingham News*

Despite being tortured by the Ku Klux Klan, Charles Billups led a march of over 1,000 people and stared down Police Commissioner Bull Connor of Birmingham. Billups' nonviolence prompted Connor's firefighters to refuse his order, leading to a victory that Martin Luther King hailed because it revealed "the power of nonviolence to me for the first time." This march proved crucial in winning the campaign in Birmingham, the climax of the entire civil rights movement.

Billups' daughter, **Renee Billups Baker**, tells the story of her courageous father for the first time outside of Birmingham. She adds her own personal experiences with Martin Luther King. She will be introduced by Professor Keith Miller of ASU, who wrote two books about King's speeches, and who is assisting her in writing her memoir.

Sponsored by the **Department of English** and **African and African American Studies** in the School of Social Transformation, both academic units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. More information: [Keith.Miller@asu.edu](mailto:Keith.Miller@asu.edu) / 480-965-7893

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