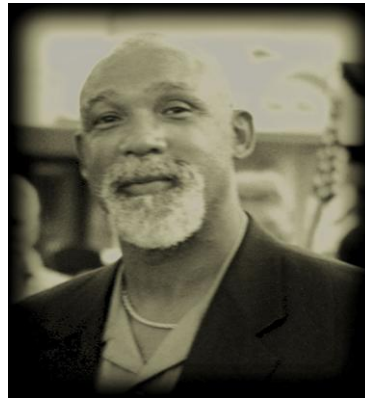


MEET JOHN CARLOS

Saturday, April 28th
Cobo Conference Center



It was one of the most significant civil rights protest in history, when Tommie Smith and John Carlos (gold and bronze medalists) raise their fists and gave the Black Power salute at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico. Pictures from left to right are: Peter Norman, Tommie Smith, and John Carlos were booed by the crowd and were ostracized by both their countries following the gesture. Norman, competing for his native Australia was sympathetic to the two African American olympians. After this Norman was never chosen for the country's Olympic team although he was eligible. At the 1968 ceremony all three athletes wore Olympic Projects for Human Rights badges. Carlos wore a string of beads to commemorate black people who had been lynched and Smith wore a black scarf around his neck to symbolize black pride.

Although Carlos had some hardships in his life, he persevered and now works as a track and field coach in Palm Springs. Smith became an assistant professor of physical education at Oberlin College and in 1995 was chosen to coach the U.S. Team at the World Indoor Championship in Barcelona. Norman died in 2006 after bouts with heavy drinking and depression. Smith and Carlos were pallbearers at his funeral. Both Smith and Carlos are public speakers and continued their social justice advocacy. They appear at functions around the country.

John Carlos will be appearing at the 6th Annual Freedom Weekend – Saturday, April 28 at Cobo. Meet him at the Celebrity Booth near Wayne Hall.