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**TOM
BLAIR**

*Oprah Winfrey
and
Bob Filner*

Flashback: Yes, the familiar smiley face on Oprah's "Freedom Riders" 50th anniversary tribute Wednesday was San Diego Rep. Bob Filner. And yes, he was a Freedom Rider — one of the first — and one of 188 in the TV show's audience. In 1961, after joining the campaign to desegregate transportation in the South, Filner was arrested, booked and held in the Mississippi state penitentiary for months. (You could Google his mug shot.) During the show, Filner says, Oprah was moved to tears, and they had to stop taping several times. Filner was moved, too, "but I was hoping for the free car," he quips.