**America’s Peacemakers: The Community Relations Service and Civil Rights**

**Book Club**

**Session I**

**February 22, 2021**

**7:30 – 9:00 p.m. ET**

**Discussions Questions**

1. In his preface to the second edition, Grande reflects on an important theme throughout the book: the tension between conflict resolution and social justice (pp. xxvii-xxix). This tension is especially evident in the portrayal of the second crossing of the Pettus Bridge in Selma (pp. 74-79). Please come ready to share your questions and reflections about this incident and theme within the book.
2. Throughout the book, Dad and Grande describe both how CRS staff worked out goals, relationships, methods to conduct their work, as well as the impact of the agency on communities around the country. What does the book tell us about the nature of government and the role of government in providing for the general good, and especially for advancing such goals as reconciliation and equal rights?
3. Please come ready to share a theme or episode in these chapters that spoke powerfully to you. What questions, new understandings, emotions, or reflections did it engender? Does this theme or episode especially reverberate with your own life or issues we face today?