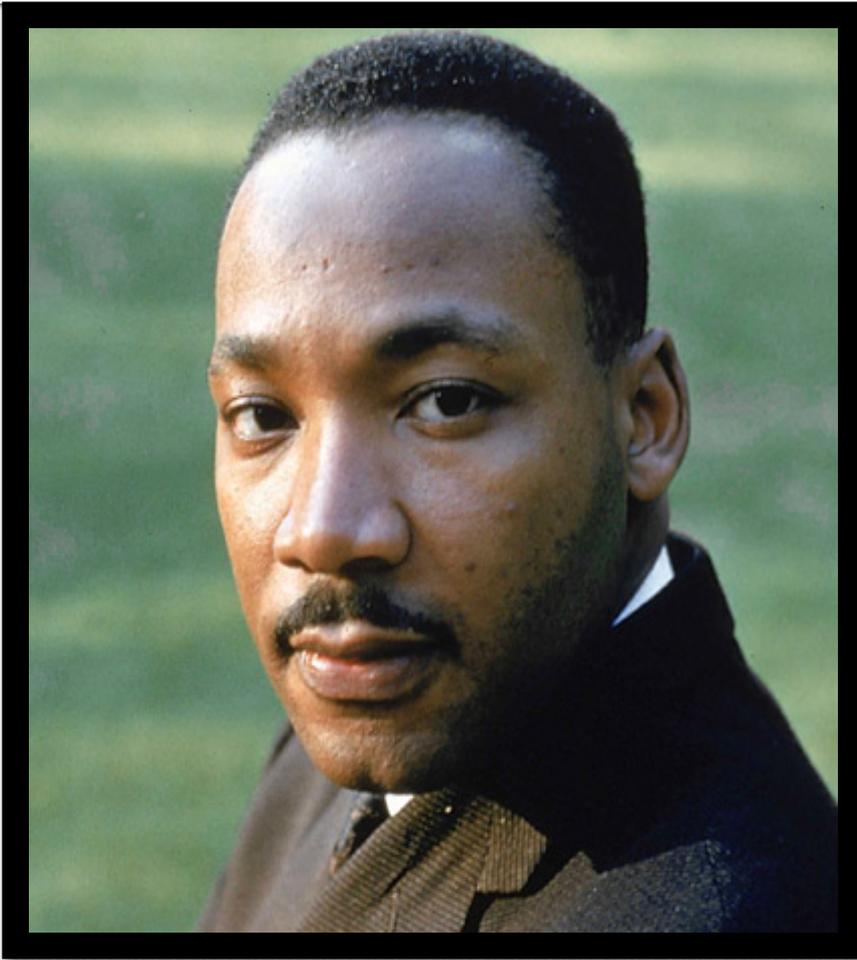


REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!
A Day On...Not A Day Off

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

January 20, 2014

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



<http://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-king-jr-9365086>

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital figure of the modern era and a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and around the world.
- Following in the footsteps of his father, in February 1948, at the age of 19, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. entered the Christian ministry and was ordained at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. In 1954, upon completion of graduate studies at Boston University, he accepted a call to serve at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. While there, he was an instrumental leader in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, made famous by the nonviolent resistance and arrest of Rosa Parks. He resigned this position in 1959 to move back to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1960 until his death in 1968, he also served as co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Dr. King was arrested 30 times for his participation in civil rights activities.

<http://mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php>

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

- While Dr. King preached about justice, empowerment, love and peace, in the final months of his life, his attention was turned to fighting poverty. Sadly, more Americans live in poverty today than during Dr. King's lifetime. Forty-seven million Americans currently fall below the poverty line.
- Dr. King was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee and died on April 4, 1968. He had gone to Memphis to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

1962

- Coretta Scott King tirelessly carried the message of nonviolence and the dream of the beloved community to almost every corner of our nation and globe. She led goodwill missions to many countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. She spoke at many of history's most massive peace and justice rallies. She served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the seventeen-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962. She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

1963

- On August 28, 1963, the historic March on Washington drew more than 200,000 people in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. It was here that King made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, emphasizing his belief that someday all men could be brothers.

1964

- The rising tide of civil rights agitation produced a strong effect on public opinion. Many people in cities not experiencing racial tension began to question the nation's Jim Crow laws and the near century second class treatment of African-American citizens. This resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 authorizing the federal government to enforce desegregation of public accommodations and outlawing discrimination in publicly owned facilities. This also led to Martin Luther King receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for 1964.

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1965

- On March 7, 1965, a civil rights march, planned from Selma to Alabama's capital in Montgomery, turned violent as police with nightsticks and tear gas met the demonstrators as they tried to cross the Edmond Pettus Bridge.
- On March 9, 1965, a procession of 2,500 marchers, both black and white, set out once again to cross the Pettus Bridge and confronted barricades and state troopers. Instead of forcing a confrontation, King led his followers to kneel in prayer and they then turned back. The event caused King the loss of support among some younger African-American leaders, but it nonetheless aroused support for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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1965-1967

- Martin Luther King Jr. expanded his Civil Rights Movement into other larger American cities, including Chicago and Los Angeles.

1968

- On April 3, in what proved to be an eerily prophetic speech, he told supporters, "I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land." The next day, while standing on a balcony outside his room at the Lorraine Motel, Martin Luther King Jr. was struck by a sniper's bullet.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

- Martin Luther King Jr.'s life had a seismic impact on race relations in the United States. Years after his death, he is the most widely known African-American leader of his era. His life and work have been honored with a national holiday, schools and public buildings named after him, and a memorial on Independence Mall in Washington, D.C.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

April 8, 1968

- Four days after Dr. King is assassinated, Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) introduces first legislation providing for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

1968

- After her husband's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King founded and devoted great energy and commitment to building and developing programs for the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. Situated in the Freedom Hall complex encircling Dr. King's tomb, The King Center is today located inside of a 23-acre national historic park which includes his birth home, and which hosts over one million visitors a year.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

- As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer, she dedicated herself to providing local, national and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods; she guided the creation and housing of the largest archives of documents from the Civil Rights Movement; and, perhaps her greatest legacy after establishing The King Center itself, Mrs. King spearheaded the massive educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

January 15, 1969

- The King Center sponsors the first annual observance of Dr. King's birthday with an ecumenical service and other events and calls for nationwide commemorations of Dr. King's birthday. This observance becomes the model for subsequent annual commemorations of Dr. King's birthday nation-wide, setting the tone of celebration of Dr. King's life, education in his teachings and nonviolent action to carry forward his unfinished work.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

April 1971

- Petitions gathered by SCLC bearing 3 million signatures in support of King Holiday are presented to Congress. But Congress takes no action to move holiday legislation forward. (<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>)

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

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1973

- First state King Holiday bill (sponsored by then Assemblyman Harold Washington) signed into law in Illinois.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

1974

- Mrs. King formed a broad coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity, as Co-Chair of both the National Committee for Full Employment and the Full Employment Action Council.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

1974

- Massachusetts, Connecticut enact statewide King Holidays.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

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1975

- New Jersey State Supreme Court rules that state must provide a paid holiday in honor of Dr. King in accordance with the state government's labor contract with the New Jersey State Employees Association.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

November 4, 1978

- National Council of Churches calls on Congress to pass King Holiday.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

February 19, 1979

- Coretta Scott King testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings in behalf of the King Holiday. She urges Rep. Conyers to bring the holiday bill up for a floor vote in the House of Representatives.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

March 27, 1979

- Mrs. King testifies before Joint Hearings of Congress in support of King Holiday bill.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-mrs-king>

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1979

- Mrs. King directs King Center staff to begin intensive organizing of a nation-wide citizens lobby for a national Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. King Center launches new nationwide King Holiday petition campaign, which is signed by more than 300,000 before end of year. President Carter calls on Congress to pass national King Holiday. The King Holiday bill finally begins to move through Congressional committees.

November, 1979

- The Conyers King Holiday bill is defeated in floor vote in U.S. House of Representatives by just 5 votes.

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1980

- Stevie Wonder releases “Happy Birthday,” a song celebrating Dr. King and urging a holiday in his honor. It becomes a hit and a rallying cry for the holiday.

May 2, 1980

- Coretta Scott King testifies in U.S. House of Representative in support of establishing a National Historic Site in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

September 11, 1980

- Mrs. King testifies in U.S. Senate in support of establishing a National Historic Site in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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1981

- King Center President Coretta Scott King writes to governors, mayors, chairpersons of city council across the U.S., requesting them to pass resolutions and proclamations commemorating the Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and send them to The King Center's Archives. She asks them to recognize celebrations and programs of observance.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

February 23, 1982

- Mrs. King testifies in support of the Holiday before the Subcommittee on Census and Population of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

1982

- The King Center calls for and mobilizes a conference to commemorate and serve as cosponsors of the 19th anniversary of the March on Washington. More than 100 organizations participated. King Center mobilizes coalition to lobby for the holiday. Stevie Wonder funds holiday lobbying office and staff based in Washington, D.C.

1982

- Mrs. King and Stevie Wonder present King Center petitions bearing more than 6 million signatures in support of King Holiday to Tip O'Neil, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

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August, 1983

- The House of Representatives passes King Holiday Bill, providing for the King Holiday to be observed on the third Monday in January. The bill, which is sponsored by Reps. Katie Hall (D.-IN) and Jack Kemp (R-NY), passes by a vote of 338 to 90.

August 27, 1983

- King Center convenes the “20th Anniversary March on Washington,” supported by more than 750 organizations. More than 500,000 people attend the March at the Lincoln Memorial, and all of the speakers call on the U.S. Senate and President Reagan to pass the King Holiday.

October 19, 1983

- Holiday Bill sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy (D.-Mass.) passes U.S. Senate by a vote of 78-22.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

November 3, 1983

- President Reagan signs bill establishing the 3rd Monday of every January as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday, beginning in 1986.

1983

- In 1983, an act of Congress instituted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which she chaired for its duration.
- she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience, sponsors of the 20th Anniversary March on Washington, until then the largest demonstration ever held in our nation's capital.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

August 27, 1984

- President Reagan signs legislation providing for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, to last for a term of five years, with an option to renew for another 5 years.

November, 1984

- First meeting of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. Coretta Scott King is unanimously elected Chairperson,

1985

- Mrs. King and three of her children, Yolanda, Martin III and Bernice were arrested at the South African embassy in Washington, DC, for protesting against apartheid. Her son, Dexter Scott King currently serves as Chairman of The Board of Directors. Her son Martin Luther King III served as The King Center's President & CEO and her daughter Bernice as Secretary of the Board of Directors and as Chief Executive Officer of the King Center.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

January 20, 1986

- First national King Holiday Observed. By this time 17 states had official King holidays. The King Holiday Commissioners are sworn in by federal district Judge Horace Ward.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

1986

- Mrs. King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband—a holiday which has come to be celebrated by millions of people world-wide and, in some form, in over 100 countries.

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1987-1988

- In 1987, she helped lead a national Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in Forsyth County, Georgia. In 1988, she re-convened the Coalition of Conscience for the 25th anniversary of the March on Washington. In preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks, in 1988 she served as head of the U.S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in Athens, Greece; and in 1990, as the USSR was redefining itself, Mrs. King was co-convener of the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, DC.

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January 16, 1989

- As a result of leadership of the King Holiday Commission, the number of states which enacted a MLK holiday grows to 44.

1990

- The United Auto Workers negotiate contracts with the big three auto companies requiring a paid holiday for all their employees.

January 15, 1990

- The Wall St. Journal Reports that only 18 % of 317 corporate employers surveyed by the Bureau of National Affairs provide a paid King Holiday.

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November 3, 1992

- After a coalition of citizens for an Arizona King Holiday launches successful protest and boycott campaigns, the people of Arizona pass referendum establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. state holiday.

January , 1993

- Arizona observes first statewide King holiday, leaving only New Hampshire without a state holiday in honor of Dr. King.

1994

- Citing Dr. King's statement that "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve," Coretta Scott King testifies before congress in support of making the King Holiday an official national day of humanitarian service.

August 23, 1994

- President Clinton signs the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act, expanding the mission of the holiday as a day of community service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives.

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1998

- A Bureau of National Affairs survey of 458 employers found that 26 percent provide a paid holiday for their workers on the King Holiday. The survey found that 33 percent of firms with union contracts provided the paid King Holiday, compared to 22 percent of nonunion shops.

June 7, 1999

- Governor Jean Shaheen of New Hampshire signs the King Holiday legislation into law, completing enactment of holiday in all states.

October 29, 1999

- U.S. Senate unanimously passes legislation requiring federal institutions to fly the U.S. flag on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

August 2000

- The King Center's National Holiday Advisory Committee (replacing the Federal King Holiday Commission) is established to promote the Holiday throughout the 50 states. Each governor of the 50 states is asked to appoint two state representatives to coordinate celebration in their state.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



<http://www.biography.com/people/coretta-scott-king-9542067/photos/coretta-scott-king>

- Following the public address in response to the verdict made by the Memphis civil jury, Coretta Scott King along with her children lay roses and pay their respects to Martin Luther King, Jr. at his tombstone in Atlanta, GA on December 9, 1999

<http://www.biography.com/people/coretta-scott-king-9542067/photos/coretta-scott-king>

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Today

- The King holiday is celebrated in U.S. installations and is observed by local groups in more than 100 other nations. Trinidad and other nations have also established a holiday in honor of Dr. King.

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

“As a nation chooses its heroes and heroines, a nation interprets its history and shapes its destiny. The commemoration of the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. can help America realize its true destiny as the global model for democracy, economic and social justice, and as the first nonviolent society in human history.”

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/making-king-holiday>

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



<http://www.biography.com/people/coretta-scott-king-9542067/photos>

- U.S. President George W. Bush escorts Coretta Scott King throughout the White House after the signing of a proclamation celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. day on January 21 2001 in Washington D.C.

<http://www.biography.com/people/coretta-scott-king-9542067/photos>

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE



<http://mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php>

- January 20, 2014 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

<http://mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php>

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MCBH EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

JANUARY 2014

Jamie Adachi, EEO Specialist

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