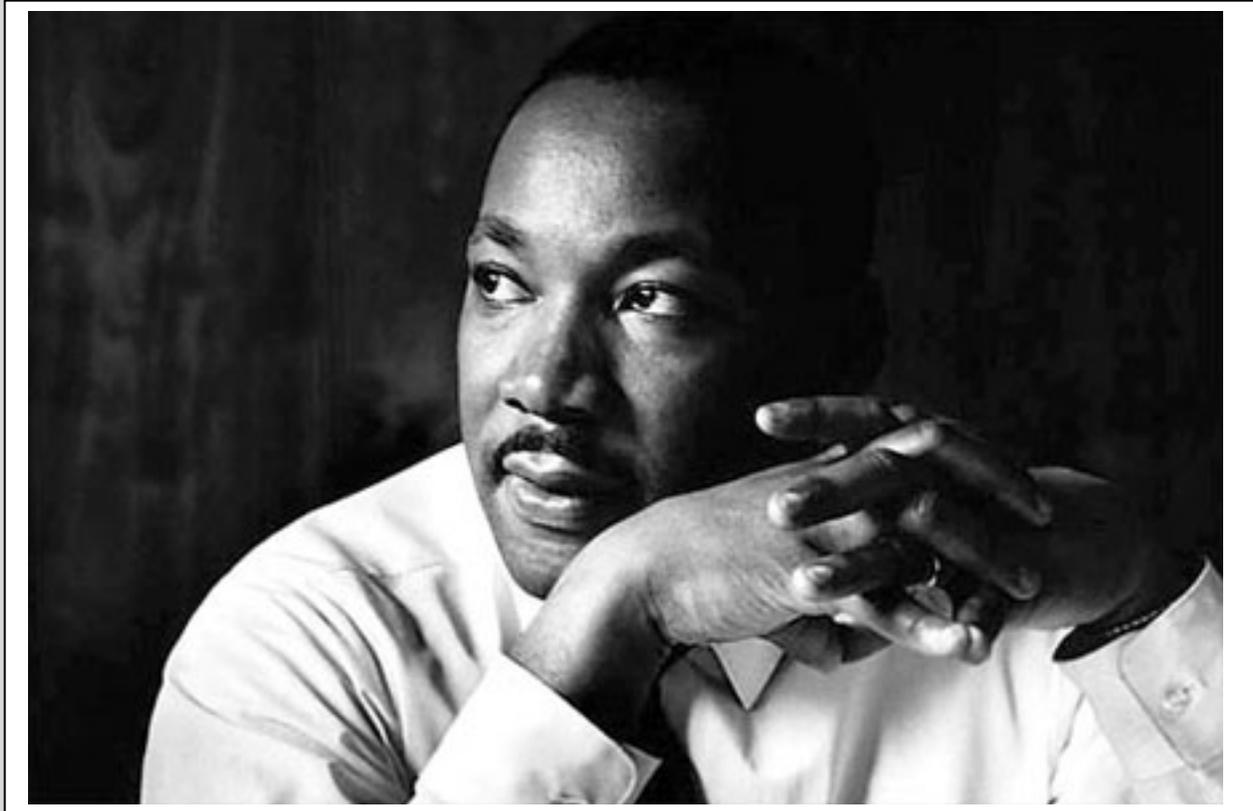


THE MOSAIC

"Diversity: the art of thinking independently together." - Malcolm Stevenson Forbes

Martin Luther King, Jr. Edition

"Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"



This month honors the heroic efforts, struggle, change, and determination of one of the greatest civil rights activists in history. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on 15 January, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. A father, husband, civil rights activist, and Baptist minister, he has had a profound impact on race relations in the U.S. Through his activism, King played a key role in ending the legal segregation of African-American citizens in the South and other areas of the nation. His non-violent efforts led to the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as well as being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Today, as we honor his legacy, we celebrate his tireless work of equality, freedom, and justice for all. Today, we honor his Dream.



March on Washington, 1963 (Left) and Birmingham Children's Crusade (1963).



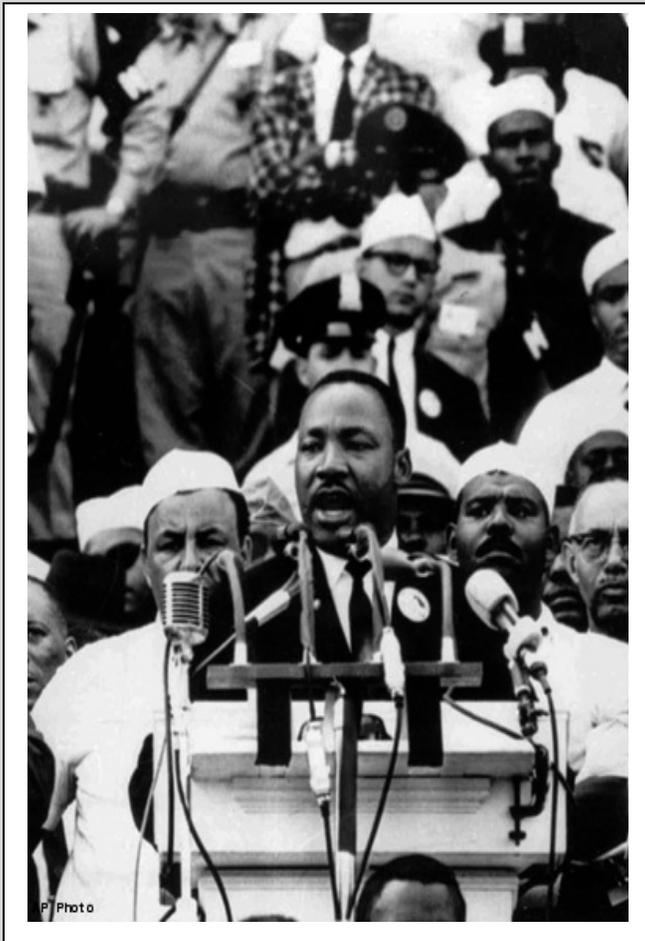
Rev. Ralph Abernathy (left) and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (right), are taken by a policeman as they led a line of demonstrators into the business section of Birmingham, Ala., on April 12, 1963. (AP Photo)



(Left Picture). The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, right, and Bishop Julian Smith, left, flank Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during a civil rights march in Memphis, Tenn., March 28, 1968. (AP Photo/Jack Thornell) (Below right) Demonstrator, Leroy Allen, attacked by police dogs. (Below left) Demonstrators sprayed with water by Birmingham Fire Department.



In 1963, Birmingham, Alabama became a focus of the Civil Rights movement. At that time, Birmingham was considered the “most segregated city in America” and was a hotbed of civil unrest and violence. The head of police, “Bull” Connor, together with the Ku Klux Klan, both allowed and organized violence against the Freedom Riders, whom were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated South. During “sit-ins” and low key protests, Connor set police dogs onto protestors which led to national attention focused on Birmingham. King was later arrested due to his campaign against segregation. While in solitary confinement, King wrote letters that were later published by his lawyers. His wife, Coretta Scott King, made a call to the White House that prompted intervention by President John F. Kennedy. This incident led to better treatment for King in prison. After his release, there were more protests, some involving young children. The turning point came when Connor released attack dogs and blasted protestors with fire hoses, which was broadcasted on national television. As more people were arrested and protests became widespread, the city was finally willing to negotiate. As negotiations were under way, violent acts were being committed by protestors. However, King preached that violence was not the answer and encouraged peaceful protest methods. In 1964, the continued efforts of King and many others led to the Civil Rights Act that was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.



By the end of the Birmingham campaign, Martin Luther King, Jr., his supporters, and other organizations, made plans for a massive demonstration in the nation’s capital asking for change. On 28 August 1963, King a March on Washington of more than 200,000 people. With the Lincoln Memorial in the background, Martin Luther King, Jr. broadcasted his famous “I Have A Dream” speech. Parts of speech are below:

“...I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal’. I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor’s lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today...”

For full text and video visit: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/17/i-have-a-dream-speech-text_n_809993.html ; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs>



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, sit with three of their four children in their Atlanta, Ga, home, on March 17, 1963. From left are: Martin Luther King III, 5, Dexter Scott, 2, and Yolanda Denise, 7. (AP Photo)

Reminders & Upcoming Events

Check out our electronic Diversity Binder on the P: Drive!

Check out:

<http://www.facebook.com/navydiversity>

President Inauguration Day 2013
Washington, DC
21 January 2013

<http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/Presidential-Inauguration-2013-Washington-Dc.htm>

King Holiday Observance Kick-Off Reception
Atlanta, GA
11 January 2013

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-observance-2013>