Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is widely regarded as America's preeminent advocate of nonviolence and a pivotal leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

In sermons and speeches, Dr. King's voice rang out with a call for us to work toward a better tomorrow. He challenged us all to live up to the ideals enshrined in our founding documents— that we are all created equal, endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

During his lifetime, King strived to realize the dream of communities united by inclusion.

Each year, on the third Monday in January, Americans across the country answer Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to action by serving their neighborhoods and volunteering their time to make a difference and spark change.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

MLK Day of Service brings us one step closer to realizing King's dream.

As the Department of Defense remembers Dr. King on his birthday, let us recommit ourselves to the standards set, the legacy that lives on, and the challenges that remain.

We urge you to take action and serve on January 20, 2020!