

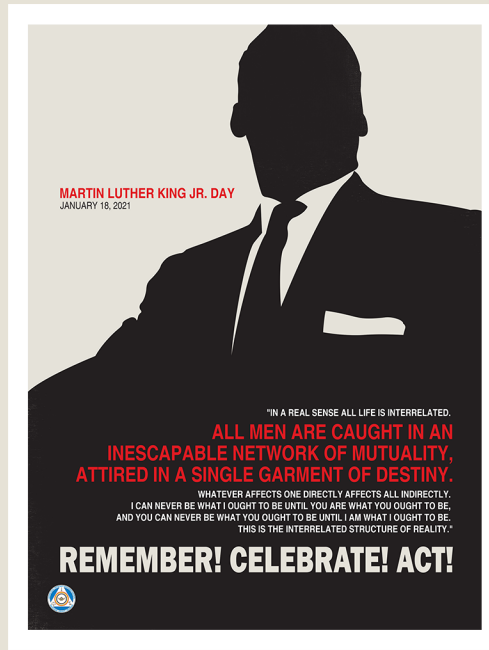
CULTURAL
AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JANUARY 18, 2021



FACTS

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as America's preeminent advocate of nonviolence and a 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.

In 1995, Congress designated Martin Luther King Jr. Day as the first and only federal holiday observed as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this national effort. The MLK Day of Service is a way to channel King's life and teaching into community action.

Each year, on the third Monday in January, the Department of Defense (DoD) joins the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by making the holiday a day of community service—"A Day On, Not A Day Off."

Americans across the country answer the call to action by serving their neighborhoods and volunteering their time to make a difference in their communities.

The Defense Department understands that freedom, equality, and inclusion are true force multipliers and imperative to national defense and the strength of our nation.

As we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on his birthday, let us continue to live up to the standard he set, ensure his legacy lives on, and as one DoD family, rise up to meet the challenges that remain.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others. In dangerous valleys and hazardous pathways, he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.