



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Resource Base**

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## Table of Contents

Did You Know? .....	4
People.....	7
Events.....	12
Quotes .....	24

## **Instructions**

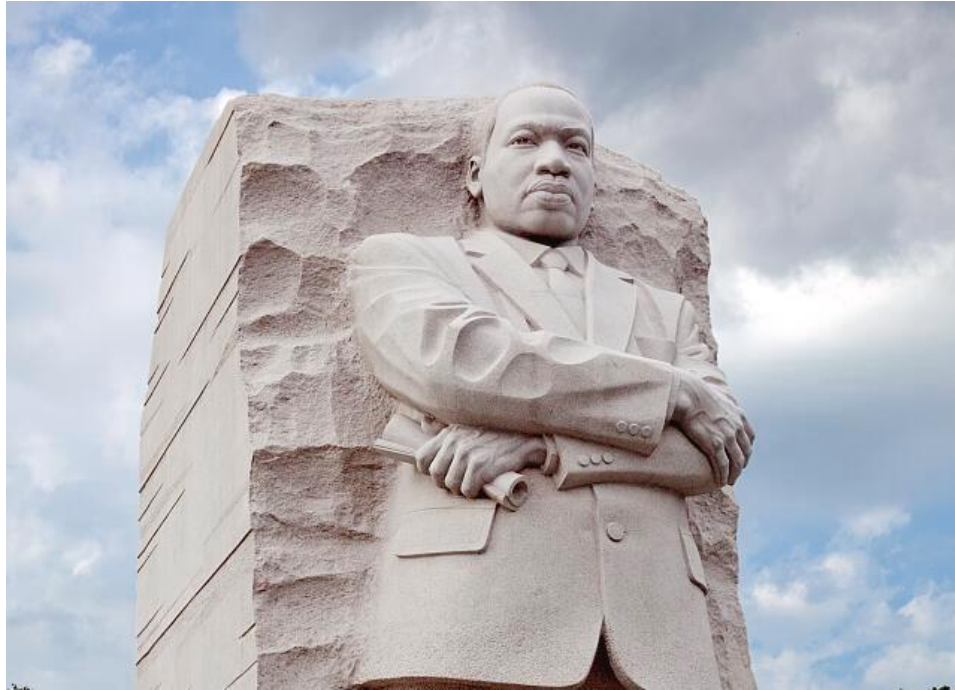
Choose the items you'd like to include on your document from the Resource Base. You may use all or part of the content for each topic or subtopic. Copy and paste desired items into the blank templates located on DEOMI's Special Observances tab, under Observance Products. You can also paste facts and images into emails and other social media. Be creative and share your ideas!

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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Did You Know?

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*Photo of Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in Washington, DC, 2011.  
Photo credit: Library of Congress, Carol M. Highsmith. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/highsm.18674/>*

### **Milestones in the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist minister and social activist, was a critical leader in the U.S. civil rights movement from 1955 until his death in 1968. King helped end the legal segregation of African American citizens in the United States and influenced the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among other honors.

Dr. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929. In 1948, he graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, and in 1951, he graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary.

While working against the prevalent segregation of the time, in 1957 King became president of new Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and he was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine. His efforts created some of the most meaningful change for African Americans, as well as all Americans, since the end of the Civil War. His philosophies and nonviolent method have been taught in schools and inspired millions across the globe.

<https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/martin-luther-king-jr/>



*Photo of Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking at a press conference at the U.S. Capitol about the Senate debate on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Photo credit: Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.41615/>*

### **Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Product and Driving Force of History**

The American Civil War concluded in 1865 after 4 years of bloody conflict between the Union and Confederacy. Thousands died liberating African Americans from slavery, which was codified with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments during Reconstruction. These laws abolished slavery, gave citizenship and equal protection to former slaves, and prohibited discrimination in voting rights. However, these massive successes did not qualify the end of racism and discrimination in the United States.

Despite some initial gains in influence, Black people in the United States were subjugated under harsh “Jim Crow” laws in the late 19th century. African Americans were forbidden from using the same public facilities, schools, live in the same towns, or vote because of voter literacy tests. All over the country, Black people didn’t have access to the same jobs, salaries, housing, or level of education. During this time, many Black people were killed through racist lynching.

This is the reality Martin Luther King, Jr., was born into in 1929. During and after World War II, some progress was made. For instance, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 after thousands of African Americans threatened to march on Washington for equal employment rights. This kind of protest and pressure is the basis of what made Martin Luther King, Jr.’s work so successful.

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/martin-luther-king-jr>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement>



*Photo of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with Lyndon B. Johnson, Robert F. Kennedy, and several civil rights activists at the White House. Photo credit: National Archives and Records Administration.*

### **Milestones in the Life of Martin Luther King**

In 1959, King visited India to study nonviolent tactics. There, he met Gandhi’s family and many of his followers. In 1961, he negotiated for jailed Freedom Riders and, after being jailed for his protest, in 1963, he wrote his famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” That same year, King met with President John F. Kennedy, and he delivered his inspiring “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington.

In 1964, King was recognized as the *Time* “Man of the Year.” He received the Nobel Peace Prize, and he was the youngest person ever to do so. In 1965, he led a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, and was again arrested.

In 1966, King led demonstrations in Chicago and the “March Against Fear” from Memphis to Jackson, Mississippi. With the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he organized the “Poor People’s Campaign” on Washington in 1968.

In 1968, King led striking sanitation workers on a march in Memphis, and he delivered his last speech, “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.”

That same year, King was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. More than 300,000 people marched with his coffin through Atlanta.

In 1977, Dr. King was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter, and in 1983, King’s birthday was declared a Federal holiday by President Ronald Reagan. Dr. King was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in 2004, and in 2011, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in Washington, DC, was dedicated.

<https://www.seattlecolleges.edu/mlk/mlk-milestones>

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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### People

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*Photo of Dr. Martin Luther King during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963. Photo credit: National Archives and Records Administration, Rowland Scherman.*

### **The Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)**

The ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865 legally ended slavery in the United States, but violence and racism—both blatant and institutional—ran rampant, especially in the South, where discriminatory Jim Crow laws laid the groundwork for racial segregation following the post-Civil War Reconstruction era.

By the 1950s, after a century of inequality, segregation, lynchings, and other senseless acts of violence, African American activists began the civil rights movement. Over the course of the next 2 decades, countless Black men and women mobilized, organizing boycotts, sit-ins, and nonviolent protest, such as the 1961 Freedom Rides and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, in an effort to fight back against systematic oppression.

None of this progress could have been made without the work of several visionary Black activists, especially Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who became a notable activist during the U.S. civil rights movement from the mid-1950s. King, who was assassinated in 1968, helped end the legal segregation of African American citizens in the United States and influenced the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among other honors.

<https://www.biography.com/news/martin-luther-king-jr-black-activists-civil-rights-movement>

<https://www.nps.gov/mlkm/learn/building-the-memorial.htm>



*Portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King, 1964. Photo credit: Library of Congress, Herman Hiller.  
<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/96516151/>*

### **Civil Rights Activism: Dr. King and Coretta Scott King (1927-2006)**

As the founder of the King Center, architect of Dr. King’s legacy, and lifelong human rights activist for social change and peace, Coretta Scott King was one of the most prominent female leaders in U.S. history.

On April 27, 1927, Coretta Scott was born in Heiberger, Alabama. After her graduation as valedictorian from Lincoln Normal High School, Scott attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, starting in 1945. After earning a B.A. in music and education, she attended Boston’s New England Conservatory of Music where she earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education.

Coretta Scott met Martin Luther King, Jr., in Boston while they were attending university: she at the New England Conservatory, and he at Boston University. After their marriage on June 18, 1953, they settled in Montgomery, Alabama; there, Dr. King served as pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. During a trip to Mexico in 1958, they observed the immense gulf between extreme wealth and extreme poverty.

In 1959, Mrs. King accompanied Dr. King on a month-long pilgrimage to India where they visited followers and sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi. In 1964, she traveled to Oslo, Norway, to be with her husband as he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. Mrs. King’s musical background enhanced her work as an advocate for justice and peace. During the 1950s, Mrs. King performed concerts and recitals throughout the South. Throughout the 1960s, she organized a series of Freedom Concerts to help raise funds for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. These highly acclaimed concerts featured poetry, narration, and music based on the civil rights movement.

<https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/about-mrs-king/>



### Civil Rights Activism: Dr. King and Coretta Scott King

In 1968, Mrs. King founded the King Center, dedicated to the life, work, and legacy of her husband. The King Center later changed its name to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change with the objective of providing programs and training in Dr. King's philosophy and methodology of nonviolence.

Dr. King was also recognized with the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial, in August 28, 2011, on the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; the ceremony was postponed until October 16 due to Hurricane Irene. King's memorial is the first to honor an African American individual on the ational Mall. The space is a place to contemplate Dr. King's legacy: a nonviolent philosophy striving for freedom, justice, and equality.

Throughout his life, the civil rights leader was imprisoned nearly 30 times for acts of civil disobedience and other suspicious charges. For example, Montgomery, Alabama, police once jailed King for driving 30 miles per hour in a 25-mile-per-hour zone. While behind bars in 1963, King penned his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which included the famous quote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

<https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/about-mrs-king/>

### Civil Rights Activism: Dr. King and Rosa Parks (1913-2005)



*Rosa Parks with Martin Luther King, Jr., after her arrest that sparked the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott. Photo credit: National Archives Administration Records of the U.S. Information Agency Record Group.*

### Civil Rights Activism: Dr. King and Rosa Parks

Often referred to as "the mother of the civil rights movement," Rosa Parks, a seamstress, refused to give up her bus seat to a White man in Montgomery, Alabama, on December 1, 1955.

Although this act has defined her legacy, Rosa Parks spent decades fighting for civil rights. Her arrest and resulting conviction for violating segregation laws launched the Montgomery bus boycott, which was led by Dr. King and included 17,000 Black participants.

The year-long boycott ended in December of 1956 following a Supreme Court decision declaring Montgomery's segregated seating unconstitutional.

Parks lost her job and, in 1957, moved to Detroit, where she remained active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

After the bus boycott, Parks continued to participate in the civil rights movement. She attended the March on Washington in 1963 and, in 1965, witnessed the signing of the Voting Rights Act. She was recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

<https://www.biography.com/news/rosa-parks-timeline-facts>



Photo of Martin Luther King, Jr., and civil rights leaders during the March on Washington, 1963.  
Photo credit: Library of Congress, Warren K. Leffler. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2013649720/>

### Civil Rights Activism: Dr. King and John Lewis (1940-2020)

John Lewis, the U.S. representative for Georgia's 5th Congressional District for more than 3 decades, learned about nonviolent protest while studying at Nashville's American Baptist Theological Seminary; he went on to organize sit-ins at segregated lunch counters.

Lewis was inspired by the actions of Rosa Parks and the words of Dr. King, which prompted Lewis to write to King, who at the time was a young minister from Atlanta sowing the early seeds of the civil rights movement. King wrote back to Lewis and included a round-trip bus ticket to Montgomery and an invitation to meet in March 1958, which led to expanded participation in civil rights activities for Lewis.

In 1963, Lewis was selected to head Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a position he held through 1966. Lewis was a planner and platform speaker for the 1963 March on Washington. Only 23 at the time, he was the youngest person to speak.

Lewis' commitment to nonviolence would be tested the following year as he and hundreds of protesters were brutally attacked by police as they attempted to march peacefully across the Pettis bridge in Selma, Alabama, in what would be known as Bloody Sunday. The event, which received wide media coverage, showed the cruelty and brutality of segregation in the South and helped hasten passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/john-lewis.htm>



*Photo of Dr. Martin Luther King (center right) and John Lewis (center left) talking to reporters after meeting with John F. Kennedy after the March on Washington, 1963. Photo credit: Library of Congress, Warren K. Leffler.*

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2013649722/>

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### Events



*A crowd of participants attend the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.  
Photo credit: Cecil Stoughton, White House Photographs.*

#### **March On Washington Celebrated With 60th Anniversary Continuation**

On August 26, 2023, thousands of people from all over the Nation came to Washington, DC, for the 60th commemoration and iteration of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Leaders and attendees called attention to the importance of staying committed to civil liberties and human rights.

The event was a collaboration between Reverend Al Sharpton, the National Action Network, and the Drum Major Institute. Speakers included Martin Luther King, III, Arndrea Waters King, Representatives James Clyburn and Hakeem Jeffries, as well as actors and activists. The speakers brought attention to issues such as poverty, civil rights abuses, voting rights, racism, and many others.

Anniversary marches usually occur every 5 years. The original March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, was itself the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation delivered by President Abraham Lincoln.

<https://thehilltoponline.com/2023/08/28/thousands-attend-march-on-washington-continuing-human-rights-struggle-60-years-later/>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/26/1196190910/march-on-washington-mlk-dream-speech-anniversary>



*William Gillespie participates in line dancing during the 41st Martin Luther King Day parade in San Diego, California. Photo credit: U.S. Navy, PO2 Elisha Smith.*

## **2023 Former Marine Corps Officer Organizes MLK Day Parade**

Retired Colonel William Gillespie served 25 years in the Marine Corps and is a current member of the same fraternity that Martin Luther King, Jr., pledged. As of 2023, Gillespie has helped organize the MLK Day parade in San Diego, California, with several of his Alpha Phi Alpha brothers and former Service members over the last 10 years.

“I think it’s absolutely critical to remember the legacy and all the things that he’s done,” Gillespie said. “[The parade] is an important display and representation of the things that he did.”

Gillespie grew up in Mobile, Alabama, through the 1970s, witnessing the discrimination that MLK fought to end. Further, as an officer in the Marine Corps, he said he was often judged by his race. He drew on Dr. King’s philosophy of nonviolent conflict resolution and vowed to fight discrimination through his work ethic.

The 41st annual parade took place on January 15, 2023. Despite rainy weather, there was a sizable turnout of schools, activist groups, and social clubs.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/436797/retired-marine-corps-colonel-helps-honor-legacy-dr-martin-luther-king-jr>

### **Martin Luther King, Jr.: National Day of Service**

In 1994, the King Holiday and Service Act was passed by Congress, designating the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday (MLK Day) as a National Day of Service, a day when all Americans are encouraged to volunteer to improve their communities.

MLK Day, observed on the third Monday in January, is the only Federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service. AmeriCorps has been leading this effort for 25 years. In honor of King’s vision, every January Americans across the country organize service-related events that help to make their communities more equitable. Service members from all branches of the military dedicate time and effort each year to volunteer in their communities. Events range from assemblies featuring speakers on Dr. King’s life and legacy, to donation and collection of items for those in need, to maintenance at an African American cemetery.

<https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/mlk-day-service>

<https://americorps.gov/newsroom/events/mlk-day>

### **Service Recognition Events Honoring MLK National Day of Service**

#### **2013 United States Marines Corp, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina**

“MLK Day is an opportunity to serve the community,” said Gunnery Sgt. Dwrena Allen, the equal opportunity advisor with Marine Corps Installations-East Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. “King was a civil rights leader, but...[he] believed we were put here not just for ourselves, but to do the common good.”

MLK Day has long held the slogan “A day on, not a day off.” To celebrate, Camp Lejeune Marines volunteered through *Operation Noble Heart*, a program managed by the Single Marine Program on base that is open to all members of the Camp Lejeune community, taking place at the Tarawa Terrace Community Center. According to Lorraine Fuller, the supervisory recreation specialist with the center, “We could not do the programs we do here . . . without the tremendous support we get from the volunteers.”

From helping build homes for veterans to helping children prepare for a new semester of school, volunteers leave their footprint throughout the base and its neighboring communities. Events include game areas, bounce houses, picture stations, craft tables, and face painting, said Fuller. “We need all the help we can get to have a fun event.”

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/100585/day-not-day-off-mlk-day-opportunity-serve-community#:~:text=Operation%20Noble%20Heart%20is%20a%20program%20managed>

### 2013 United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles, California

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Black Employment Program (BEP) honored the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service by delivering more than 100 pounds of collected toiletries and toys to local shelters in the downtown Los Angeles community January 22, 2013.

The BEP began collecting toiletries and toys at the end of the Christmas break, and District employees dropped off toiletry items and toys in a collection box that was located in the District's EEO office.

"Our team wanted to do something different this year in observation of the King holiday," said Arnecia Williams, District Black Employment Program manager. "I am extremely happy with the large donations of toiletries and toys by our District employees and our BEP team members' support in getting them out."

Williams and BEP program team members Matthews Turner, Lashawn Richardson, Brooks Hubbard and Debra McCree delivered the items to the Downtown Women's Center, located one block away from "Los Angeles' skid row." Team members handed out about 70 toiletry kits to residents of that center.

The DWC is a nonprofit organization providing permanent housing and other services for homeless women.

[https://www.army.mil/article/95255/District\\_observes\\_MLK\\_holiday\\_with\\_day\\_of\\_service/](https://www.army.mil/article/95255/District_observes_MLK_holiday_with_day_of_service/)



*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Black Employment Program honored Martin Luther King, Jr., Day with a day of service. Photo of BEP program team members Matthews Turner, Lashawn Richardson, Debra McCree, Arnecia Williams, and Brooks Hubbard delivering donated toys and toiletries to the Downtown Women's Center.*

*Photo credit: U.S. Army*



*Soldiers and civilians of the 232nd Medical Battalion, serving as stage actors dressed in 1960s clothing while holding peaceful protest signs at Blesse Auditorium for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance.  
Photo credit: U.S. Army*

## **2023 Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas**

On January 19, 2023, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day was observed at Blesse Auditorium, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The ceremony was hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence’s commanding general, Major General Michael Talley, and sponsored by the 232nd Medical Battalion.

Part of the ceremony included a dramatic reenactment of a civil-rights era peaceful demonstration. After a brief narration, a massive projection of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool appeared in front of the 200-person audience. Members of the 232nd Medical Battalion dressed in 1960-styled clothing while holding protest signs, reenacting the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. At the same time, Sgt. 1st Class James Ransfer read the entirety of MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

Afterwards, Lewis Barger, the historian of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, shared three stories to illustrate the importance of MLK’s fight for civil rights. He spoke of the Houston riot of 1917, during which 13 African American soldiers were killed at Fort Sam Houston, the resistance from the then-Secretary of the Army after President Truman desegregated the military in 1948, and MLK’s fight to desegregate Albany, Georgia.

Barger ended his discussion by stating, “You as soldiers are representatives of society. You are called upon to be the best of society. And as such it’s more important than anybody to treat each other with dignity, with respect, with justice.”

[https://www.army.mil/article/263408/medcoe\\_hosts\\_inspiring\\_mlk\\_day\\_event](https://www.army.mil/article/263408/medcoe_hosts_inspiring_mlk_day_event)





*Dr. Clifford L. Stanley providing the keynote address for the Naval Sea Systems Command Joint Warfare Centers' MLK Day Observance. Photo credit: U.S. Navy, Gary Ell.*

### **2023 Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division, Pennsylvania**

In-person and virtual attendees gathered for the stirring Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division, hosted by the Naval Sea Systems Command Joint Warfare Center on January 19, 2023.

Keina Thorpe, the center's African American Employee Resource Group vice chair, introduced a video featuring members from all 10 naval warfare centers reading quotes by MLK and explaining what each means to them.

Capt. Dana Simon continued the event, highlighting the importance of MLK. "Dr. King was an inspiration and had a dream of equality in our country, but his life tragically ended before he could witness the fruits of his labor. We've made great progress, but as the last few years have shown us, we're still on the path to the dream."

The keynote speaker, Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Major General, discussed his personal experience living through the evils of racism that MLK fought to end. "I went to South Carolina State College . . . I was working and we had a position where they wanted me to work with the Red Cross. I couldn't get a blood transfusion. Blacks could not have blood transfusions with Whites in 1966-1967."

He discussed the hardships he and his family have faced. In 1975, his wife was shot in a racially motivated attack, paralyzing her. Despite the hatred they have faced, Dr. Stanley maintains that love is the answer. "Martin Luther King [Day] is not just a day of service . . . This is about love; this is what Dr. King stood for. It's not a wuss factor to say you love somebody, it doesn't make you weak, and anybody who knows anything about my record and my background, you know that."

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/437682/nswcpd-hosts-navsea-joint-warfare-centers-martin-luther-king-jr-day-observance>



*U.S. Air Force members Maj. Justin Klum and Tech. Sgt. Brian Smith discuss career fields with students for the DreamWeek luncheon. Photo credit: U.S. Air Force, Sharon Singleton.*

### **2023 16th Air Force Members Mentor Youth, San Antonio, Texas**

Several 16th Air Force airmen mentored students in the San Antonio community on January 18, 2023. The event was part of a DreamWeek event, which is a 17-day summit honoring the legacy of MLK, hosted by the nonprofit Cibolo Enrichment Foundation.

Curtis Lindesay, member of the 16th Air Force and founder of the Cibolo Enrichment Foundation, gave airmen the opportunity to discuss career fields, education, and future options to students during a luncheon.

“The Air Force and the military as an organization have always led the country in diversity, equality, and the essence of what a Dr. King ‘dream’ society should look like,” said Lindesay. “While no society is perfect, the Air Force has a system of balance that is based on truth and integrity.”

Students took turns speaking with teachers, doctors, lawyers, and airmen about their futures and how to achieve their own dreams. The event concluded with a scholarship opportunity from a local sponsor.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/437266/16th-air-force-airmen-mentor-youth-during-san-antonio-area-dreamweek-luncheon>



*U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Scott D. Berrier speaks with Dr. Stephon Ferguson at the Defense Information Agency MLK Day Observance event. Photo credit: U.S. Army Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.*

### **2023 Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, DC**

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day was observed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, DC, in collaboration with the Defense Information Agency on January 12, 2023. Dr. Stephon Ferguson was the guest speaker.

Dr. Ferguson travels throughout the Nation sharing the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, educating people on his life, philosophy, and impact. Dr. Ferguson’s rousing rendition of MLK’s speeches “almost placed us on the [Washington] Mall on that important day 60 years ago,” said John Perroots, director of Defense Debriefing Service at the Defense Information Agency.

In a question-and-answer session, Dr. Ferguson said “I love what I do. I believe the work of Dr. King played a pivotal role in the way people think, and to recreate those words in today’s society and to be a part of something that makes a difference in people’s lives is incredible.”

The event concluded with a performance of the song “Life Every Voice and Sing” by the U.S. Air Force Band member, Tech. Sgt. Michael Aiello. The song is widely considered the African American national anthem, embraced during the civil rights movement.

<https://www.jbab.jb.mil/News/Article/3275942/jbab-honors-mlk-legacy/>

## 2021 United States Army, Fort Leavenworth, Lansing, Michigan

On January 18, in celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service, more than 50 volunteers, including active duty Service members, Department of the Army civilians, and members of the Leavenworth County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, gathered in the south section of Mount Muncie Cemetery in Lansing to clean and decorate 1,388 African American gravesites with a U.S. flag and a Pan-African flag.

Leavenworth County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Branch Assistant Secretary Angie Thomas, a Munson Army Health Center medical evaluation section civilian employee, said the gravesites cleaned and decorated include the first African American lawyer and the first African American doctor in Leavenworth.

“There’s history that goes back to the early 1800s [in the cemetery],” Thomas said.

Later in the evening, members gathered via video teleconference to tell the stories of some of the people buried in the cemetery.

“Legacy, the people before us, they came,” said Lt. Col. Michael Sturdivant, Joint Center for International Security Force Assistance knowledge manager. “What they lived for has given us a privilege to just be able to give this moment of service to them.”

[https://www.army.mil/article/242576/cemetery\\_cleaned\\_for\\_mlk\\_day\\_of\\_service](https://www.army.mil/article/242576/cemetery_cleaned_for_mlk_day_of_service)



*Volunteers Lt. Col. Michael Sturdivant, a knowledge manager for the Joint Center for International Security Force Assistance, and Lauren Cooper clean the gravestone for William Brown's wives — Elenora Brown, born 1856 and died 1912; and Geneva Brown, born 1873 and died 1928 — January 18 at Mount Muncie Cemetery in Lansing*

*Photo credit: Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp*

### 2014 United States Coast Guard, St. Petersburg, Florida

Coast Guard crewmembers from Sector St. Petersburg and Air Station Clearwater volunteered for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service at the Bob and Margaret Keelean Sallie House, a safe haven for children, during a day of service event, held on January 20, 2014.

Coast Guardsmen volunteered their services under the guidance of the sector’s Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council and the Association of Naval Officers Tampa Bay chapter.

“This is the second time we hosted this kind of volunteer event,” said Lt. J.G. Carlos Ortega-Perez, sector’s Leadership Development and Assessment Course chairman. “The first event took place last year during the MLK Day of Service 2013. This year, thanks to the efforts from the leadership of the Association of Naval Officers of Tampa Bay, enough funds were raised to impact all the children in the Salvation Army facilities.”

In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, volunteers gave back to the community by committing their time to serve. Coast Guard volunteers helped provide needed services to the facility, presented donations, and hosted an exciting day of games for the children under the care of the shelter.

After spending the morning restoring and cleaning the facility, the crewmembers spent the afternoon serving the children cotton candy, snow cones, and popcorn while they observed them play multiple outdoor games.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/23412076@N06/12061244266>



*Coast Guard crewmembers from Sector St. Petersburg and Air Station Clearwater are shown at the Bob and Margaret Keelean Sallie House during a Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service event held on January 20, 2014.*

*Photo credit: Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael De Nyse*



*Spec. Dameyne Toney and Staff Sgt. Daphne Pierre participate in the 1-mile march to honor those who participated in the March on Washington in 1963. Photo credit: U.S. Army, Troy Darr.*

## **2022 U.S. Army NATO Brigade at Sembach Kaserne, Germany**

On January 21, 2022, U.S. Army NATO Brigade soldiers and civilian employees celebrated the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., at Sembach Kaserne, Germany. The observance began with a speech by the brigade commander, Colonel Miles T. Gengler.

Participants then honored Martin Luther King, Jr., and the March on Washington with a 1-mile march. Afterwards, the soldiers and civilian employees met at the Tiger Theater to watch the documentary *The March* from 2013, which highlights the context and history of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Several organizers discussed the importance of the commemoration, stating that many issues leading up to the civil rights movement went unnoticed, so it takes awareness and leadership on the part of commanders to spread the importance of diversity. This message is especially important for the U.S. Army NATO Brigade, which supports the 44 NATO organizations across 37 locations in 21 countries.

[https://www.army.mil/article/253424/brigade\\_honors\\_life\\_legacy\\_of\\_martin\\_luther\\_king\\_jr](https://www.army.mil/article/253424/brigade_honors_life_legacy_of_martin_luther_king_jr)



*Anselm Beach addresses luncheon attendees during the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth for the 2023 MLK Day Observance. Photo Credit: Prudence Siebert, U.S. Army.*

## **2023 Fort Leavenworth, Washington, DC**

On January 12, 2023, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day was celebrated at the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth with a luncheon hosted by Anselm Beach, senior advisor to the Secretary of the Army for Diversity and Inclusion in Washington, DC.

Beach spoke to Service members about the importance of MLK’s legacy and day of observance: “There is so much that we can learn as each generation faces more complex problems.” Beach points out that MLK’s legacy of activism, selflessness, and over 2,500 speeches and sermons can be a basis for leaders in the military. He especially emphasized diversity and inclusion efforts as a framework for optimizing talent and building cohesive teams.

“It’s not just about the representation of different people—that’s important, but in a dangerous world with a lot of complex problem-solving, we need different people looking at different issues in different ways to come up with creative solutions.”

[https://www.army.mil/article/263399/observing\\_martin\\_luther\\_king\\_jr\\_day\\_speaker\\_shares\\_kings\\_lesson\\_to\\_reorder\\_priorities\\_on\\_when\\_to\\_be\\_first](https://www.army.mil/article/263399/observing_martin_luther_king_jr_day_speaker_shares_kings_lesson_to_reorder_priorities_on_when_to_be_first)

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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### Quotes

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“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

“I have decided to stick to love . . . Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/52037-a-testament-of-hope-the-essential-writings-and-speeches-of-martin-luthe>

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1618365>

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/52037-a-testament-of-hope-the-essential-writings-and-speeches-of-martin-luthe>



“Let no man pull you so low as to hate him.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/238539-a-knock-at-midnight-inspiration-from-the-great-sermons-of-reverend-mart>

“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/52037-a-testament-of-hope-the-essential-writings-and-speeches-of-martin-luthe>

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

“People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/23924.Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_Jr](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/23924.Martin_Luther_King_Jr)