

CULTURAL
AWARENESS

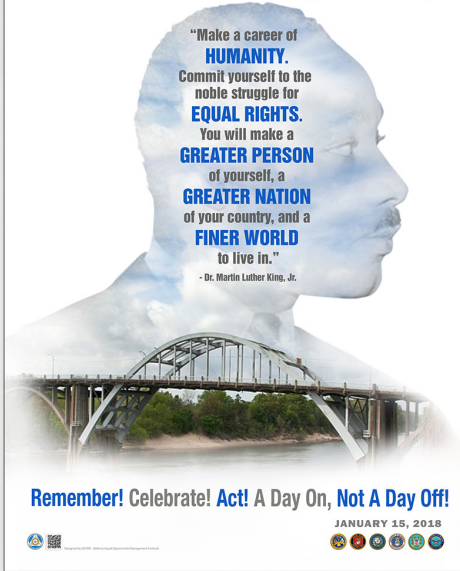


OBSERVANCE

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



FACTS

Born January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.

His leadership was fundamental to the movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States.

Dr. King skipped several grades in elementary school and entered Booker T. Washington High School in 1942 at the age of 13. At 15, he graduated high school and enrolled in Morehouse College, where he learned of the advantages of the ministry in the fight against social injustice and decided to become a pastor. Just two years later, Dr. King was ordained as the assistant pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950's and '60s to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Dr. King used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly impossible goals.