



Chronology of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929

January 15
Martin Luther King, Jr., is born to Rev. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr., at 501 Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia.

1935-1944

King attends David T. Howard Elementary School, Atlanta University Laboratory School, Booker T. Washington High School and enters Morehouse at age 15.

1947

18-year-old King is licensed to preach and becomes assistant to his father, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

1948

February
King is ordained to the Baptist ministry.

June
King graduates from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in sociology.

September
King enters Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. Here he begins a serious study of the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

1953

Marries Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.



Rosa Parks

Martin Luther King's role in the Civil Rights Movement began in 1955 when Rosa Parks, a seamstress, refused to give up her seat on the public bus to a white man. Her action led to a successful boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system. King, a young minister, was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which coordinated the boycott. On June 4, 1956, the U.S. District Court ruled that racial desegregation on the city bus line was unconstitutional.

1954

May
The U.S. Supreme Court rules unanimously in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

October
Rev. King is installed as the 20th pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

1955

June
King earns a Ph.D. degree in systematic theology from Boston University.

December
Mrs. Rosa Parks is arrested because she refuses to give her seat to a white man. The bus boycott starts on December 5th and King Dr. King and Rev. Ralph Abernathy visit West Berlin at the invita-

1956

January
King is arrested in Montgomery and released on his own recognizance. A bomb is thrown onto the porch of the King home.

February
King is indicted with other protesters on the charge of being part of a conspiracy to prevent the operation of business without "just or legal cause."

June
A United States district court rules that racial segregation on city bus lines is unconstitutional.

October
The mayor of Montgomery instructs the city council "to file such proceedings as it may deem proper to stop the operation of car pools and transportation systems growing out of the boycott."

November
United States Supreme Court upholds decision of district court in declaring Alabama's segregation on buses laws unconstitutional.

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We remember him as a

“drum major for justice.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted to be remembered as a “drum major for justice.” He is so remembered. And he, by his life's example, still leads us towards justice. Towards the fulfillment of his dream. Today we honor Dr. King and his memory. Today, and for all tomorrows, we are committed to helping fulfill his dream.

