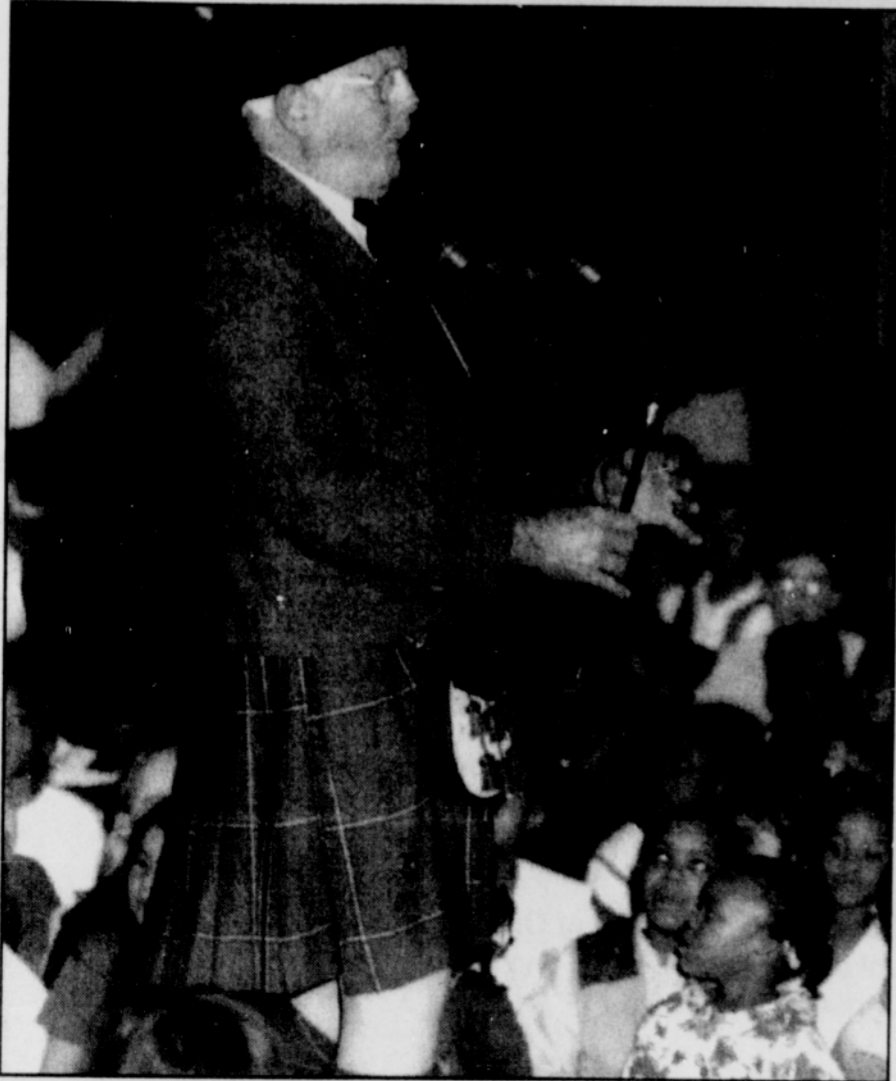


Martin Luther King Jr.



Music and guests speakers highlight the Martin Luther King Elementary commemoration assembly in honor of the school's namesake. Performing the Scottish bagpipes is Dean Forbes, a retired school district employee.



Assembled students at Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at King school hear former Trail Blazer Kermit Washington discuss his recent humanitarian mission to Rwanda. (Photos by Donn Thomas)

Holiday Declared:

With resolution and eloquence, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stirred people around the globe to action. He dedicated his life to ending the oppression of racism, and his vision of a nation driven by love instead of hate changed our world forever. We are all the beneficiaries of his legacy, and we are all grateful.

Dr. King taught that the goals of civil rights are not merely the goals of any specific group - they are the goals of our Nation. To give people opportunity, to treat them with fairness, and to distinguish them only by their potential - we will continue to work toward these goals as long as people in this Nation are in need of housing, medical care, and subsistence. We will continue to work as long as neighborhoods are ravaged by drugs and violence. We will continue to work as long as any person, because of circumstance of birth, is granted anything less than the full measure of his or her dignity.

Three decades have passed since Dr. King stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial and told the world of his dream for a future in which children are judged "not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Today, with an entire generation of voting Americans who did not witness firsthand the great civil rights victories of the 1960s, it is more important than ever to remind the Nation about Dr. King and his inestimable gifts to this country, so that all of us continue to grow in our commitment to justice and equality.

This year, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is celebrated with a national day of service, a call to join together in purpose and care for one another. On this occasion, I urge the citizens of this great country to reflect upon Dr. King's teachings, and to take positive and life-affirming action in his memory. Give back to your community, help the homeless, feed the hungry, attend to the sick, give to the needy. In whatever way you choose to serve the public good, do something to make life better for the people around you. As Dr. King said on many occasions, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

I William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Jan. 16, 1995 as the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday.

These young men of Portland House of Umoja, have written a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



What Martin Luther King Meant To Me

When Martin Luther King stood on the mountain top he had a vision that one day black men and white men could join in unity. He had a dream that we could live together in peace. But back then a lot of people didn't believe that Martin Luther King could fulfill his dream, but through it all Martin showed everyone that he was a soldier, because even though they put him in jail or hurt him he still stood up for what he believed in, as a man, and a soldier. The reason I feel he was a soldier is because when he was knocked down he got back up and kept fighting as a man, not as a gangster or hustler. He was a man of dignity and pride and he was a non-violent leader, even though he never lived long enough to see the difference he made in this world, I feel he would have been proud. Even though they killed him they never took what he believed in away from him.

--Dimitaius Price

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 and died on August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King had a dream of racial justice and human brotherhood in the United States, and of peace throughout the world. He had a dream of how nonviolence, love and courage could triumph over hate and brutal force. I am writing about a dreamer and his dream, and of the life he dedicated and ultimately sacrificed to try to make the dream a living reality for us all.

Martin Luther King taught me to respect others even if they don't respect you.

--Rashell Holloway

Free At Last, Free At Last

Umoja means unity and Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted blacks and whites to come together for unity. Martin Luther King was a black leader and black people were done wrong back then. Even though Mr. King was black, white people also loved him for a leader and for who he was and not over color. Mr. King was also good for talking and speeches. When Mr. King made the speech I Have A Dream, that made a difference all over. He also was good for the mountain top and to make a difference. Mr. King was a strong man, he was strong in talking not by fighting and shooting. Mr. King had good thoughts for the blacks and whites he was a man that stayed to his word but his words was too strong. Mr. King was took out by a bullet. Mr. King had a family, he was taken away from his family on August 28th, 1963. He was put on this world for a reason to make a change and he made his point and the lord must have thought his work was done and knew that he had made a change. Mr. King will be missed and thought of by many people and his hard work will be remembered.

Open eyes January 15th, 1939
Closed eyes August 28th, 1963

--Allen J. Collins

Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most influential leaders in the civil rights movement, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929.

His father, grandfather and great grandfather were all preachers. At age 15 King entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, he received a doctor of philosophy degree from Boston University.

At age 25, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist church in Montgomery, Alabama.

King began getting involved with the fight for civil rights because he was deeply concerned with the conditions of the black people.

Dr. King taught me how to be tolerant of other people. He really practiced what he preached.

--Ahmad Stevens



--Marcus Branch, Outreach Coordinator

"Happy Birthday Dr. King"



Celebrating his 66th birthday...

The Portland Branch NAACP salutes Dr. King and his dream.

ShaRee Rhone, Branch President



"The straitjacket of race prejudice and discrimination do not wear only Southern labels. The subtle, psychological technique of the North has approached in its ugliness and victimization of the Negro the outright terror and open brutality of the South."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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