

The



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'City of Roses'



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50 Years Later

Local leaders
say there's still
work to do
for civil rights

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

50 years ago, Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a defining speech for himself, the Civil Rights Movement, the United States of America and the world.

When he spoke the words 'I Have A Dream' at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., hundreds of thousands of people had gathered for a March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Nine other speakers of various backgrounds spoke before the Aug. 28, 1963 crowd, but it was King's impassioned words calling for equality among all people that most remember.

Civil rights leaders, including the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP of Portland, Urban League of Portland, the ACLU of Portland, among others, have teamed up to commemorate the 50 year anniversary with a march this coming Saturday in downtown Portland.

Timed to coincide with that national event taking place in the nation's capital, both events will focus on issues such as the recent Supreme Court's repeal of Section 4 of the 1964 Voting Rights Act, and the highly publicized George Zimmerman trial of a Florida neighborhood watch captain who shot and killed an unarmed African-American boy and was subsequently acquitted.

"It's interesting that in 2013 we're dealing with many of the same issues of the past," says Dr. Rev. LeRoy Haynes Jr., who heads the Albina Ministerial Alliance's Coalition for Justice and Police Reform. "Jobs, economic equity,

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The Aug. 28, 1963 march was organized to support civil rights legislation, and end segregation and job discrimination. (AP photo)

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