



Martin Luther

King Jr. Day

(officially Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.) is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15. This year's celebration will be on recognized on Monday, January 18, 2021.

King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

“I Have a Dream”

Dr. King's “I Have a Dream” speech is a public speech delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963, in which he calls for an end to racism in the United States.

He began with: "I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation."

He continued on with the language that Americans remember to this day:

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’...

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!”

His close "to let freedom ring" still resonates today and inspires those who are moved by his dream.

Did you know?

Dr. King is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capital.

Sources

Martin Luther King, Jr., *In Wikipedia*. Retrieved January 12, 2017 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr

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<http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

Martin Luther King's Speech: 'I Have a Dream' - The Full Text, ABC NEWS (August 27, 2013)

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