

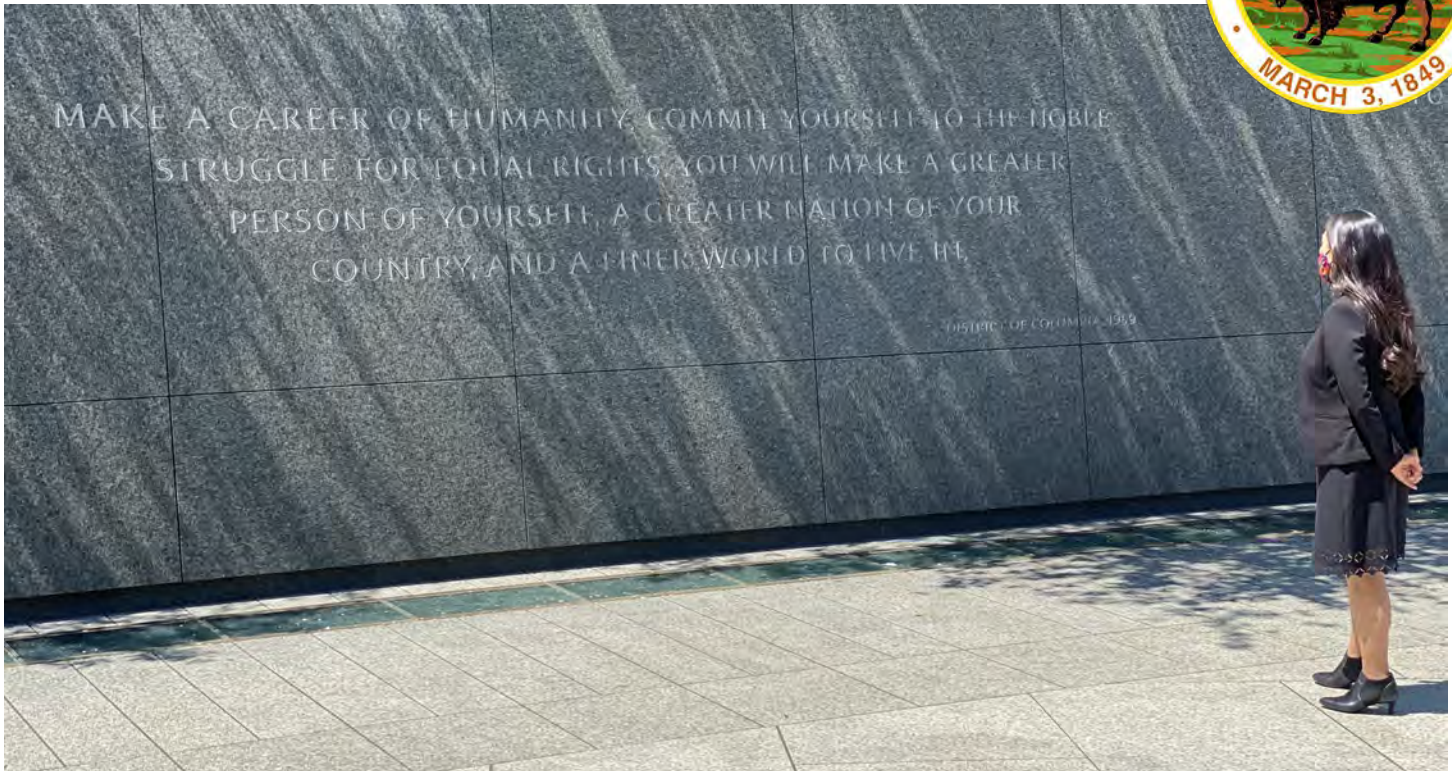
Connections

Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 2022



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Policy, Management and Budget
Administrative Services and the
Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights



Secretary Haaland at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC

Colleagues,

On days like Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, we acknowledge the pain that communities across the nation and around the world are feeling during these turbulent times, and we recognize the incredible sacrifices that civil rights leaders gave to build a better future for generations of people they would never meet.

We honor those sacrifices by standing up for disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. At Interior, that means uplifting the diverse voices both as members of our team, but also in the broader narrative of our country. President Biden, through his early Executive Orders, made equity and inclusion a priority, and over the past year the Department has worked to increase access to our public lands to every community no matter their income, background, or zip code; moved forward to

create good-paying union jobs that promote an equitable economic recovery; and combated the climate crisis in a way that fosters environmental justice.

Interior plays a critical role in living up to the dream that Dr. King had, and I couldn't be prouder to work alongside the public servants who live those values every day and strive to build a future where every community can thrive.

Sincerely,

Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior

January 2022

Message from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services

January 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspires me every day, particularly when the troubles of the world seem to have placed what appear to be insurmountable obstacles on the path to achieving Dr. King's vision. Yet I know that those obstacles will eventually melt away when we focus our hearts and minds on finding solutions together.

While serving as leaders of the civil rights movement, Dr. and Mrs. King raised their family in much the same way my dear parents raised my brothers and myself. It gives me comfort to know that at the end of the day, their family came together in love and faith the same way our family did, grateful for each other and grateful knowing the path ahead was illuminated by a shared dream of a fair and equitable world.

This issue of **Connections** begins on the next page with wise words of introduction from our collaborative partner, **Alesia J. Pierre-Louis**, Acting Principal Diversity Officer and Acting Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights. Alesia speaks eloquently of Dr. King's championing of equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of life long



before others understood how critically important those concepts were in creating and sustaining positive outcomes.

I hope you find as much inspiration and hope within the pages of this month's **Connections** magazine as I did.

As always, please be well and stay safe.

Jacqueline M. Jones

Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Administrative Services

Connections Magazine is a Special Emphasis Program initiative of the DOI Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Administrative Services in collaboration with the DOI Office of Diversity Inclusion and Civil Rights. Your input is essential to making this a valuable resource for all employees. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions and articles/pictures with editor Steve Carlisle by emailing Stephen_Carlisle@ibc.doi.gov.

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Message from the Acting Director of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights

January 2022

Dear Colleagues:

On January 17, 2022, our nation participated in Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s National Day of Service. In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act designating the third Monday in January of every year as a national day of service. Dr. King firmly believed in acts of service to others and our nation, and he encouraged us to think of the collective good by contributing our time and talents to serving others.

Dr. King recognized the power of service as a form of allyship. Every day, as public servants, we work together to fulfill the mission of the Department of the Interior. Additionally, we assist communities through charitable giving – whether it's donating hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and household items to food banks all over the country or donating millions of dollars to charities through the Combined Federal Campaign, Federal employees live up to the challenge Dr. King issued to all of us.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

No matter the form it takes, service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges differences, and creates solutions.

Our commitment as stewards of America's natural and cultural resources and our commitment to honor our nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes epitomizes Dr. King's belief in the power of service as expressed in his legendary words:

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Public servants make a difference! Your service to others makes a difference!

With best regards,

Alesia J. Pierre-Louis

Acting Principal Diversity Officer and Acting Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, Office of the Secretary (she/her)

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom



From the [National Park Service](#)

It was the largest gathering for civil rights of its time: an estimated 250,000 people attended the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, arriving in Washington by planes, trains, cars, and buses from all over the country.

Introduction

The event focused on employment discrimination, civil rights abuses against African Americans, Latinos, and other disenfranchised groups, and support for the Civil Rights Act that the Kennedy Administration was attempting to pass through Congress. This momentous display of civic activism took place on the [National Mall](#), known as America's Front Yard, and was the culmination of an idea born more than 20 years before.

While the March was a collaborative effort, sponsored by leaders of various student, civil rights, and labor organizations,

the original idea came from [A. Philip Randolph](#), a labor organizer and founder of the [Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters](#) and the [Negro American Labor Council](#) (NALC). His vision for a march on the Nation's Capitol dated to the 1940s when he twice proposed large-scale marches to protest segregation and discrimination in the U.S. military and the U.S. defense industry and to pressure the White House to take action. The pressure worked. President Roosevelt signed [Executive Order 8802](#) (Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry, 1941) and President Truman signed [Executive Order 9981](#) (Desegregation of the Armed Forces, 1948), and Randolph cancelled the marches.

Organizing the March

By the 1960s, a public expression of dissatisfaction with the status quo was considered necessary and a march was planned for 1963, with Randolph as the titular head. Joining Randolph in sponsoring the March were the leaders of the five major civil rights groups: [Roy Wilkins](#) of the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) (NAACP), [Whitney Young](#) of the [National Urban League](#) (NUL), Martin Luther King, Jr. of the [Southern Christian Leadership Conference](#) (SCLC), [James Farmer](#) of [Congress On Racial Equality](#), and [John Lewis](#) of the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#) (SNCC).

[cont'd]

Remembering Dr. King

These "Big Six," as they were called, expanded to include [Walter Reuther](#) of the [United Auto Workers](#) (UAW), [Joachim Prinz](#) of the [American Jewish Congress](#) (AJC), [Eugene Carson Blake](#) of the Commission on Religion and Race of the [National Council of Churches](#), and [Matthew Ahmann](#) of the [National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice](#). In addition, [Dorothy Height](#) of the [National Council of Negro Women](#) participated in the planning, but she operated in the background of this male-dominated leadership group.

The march was organized in less than three months. Randolph handed the day-to-day planning to his partner in the March on Washington Movement, [Bayard Rustin](#), a pioneer of the 1947 [Journey of Reconciliation](#) and a brilliant strategist of nonviolent direct action protests. Rustin planned everything, from training "marshals" for crowd control using nonviolent techniques to the sound system and setup of porta-potties. There was also an organizing manual that laid out a statement of purpose, specific talking points, and logistics. Rustin saw that to maintain order over such a large crowd, there needed to be a highly organized support structure.

Rustin coordinated a staff of over 200 civil rights activists and organizers to assist in publicizing the march and recruiting marchers, organizing churches to raise money, coordinating buses and trains, and administering all of the other logistical details. In many ways, the march defied expectations. The number of people that attended exceeded the initial estimates made by the organizers. Rustin had indicated that they expected over 100,000 people to attend - the final estimate was 250,000, with 190,000 blacks and 60,000 whites in attendance.

A Powerful, Peaceful Protest

With that many people converging on the city, there were concerns about violence. The Washington, D.C. police force mobilized 5,900 officers for the march and the government mustered 6,000 soldiers and National Guardsmen as additional protection. President Kennedy thought that if there were any problems, the negative perceptions could undo the civil rights bill making its way through Congress. In the end, the crowds were calm and there were no incidents reported by police.

[cont'd]



Photo by James P. Blair, National Geographic, August 28, 1963

Remembering Dr. King

While the March was a peaceful occasion, the words spoken that day at the Lincoln Memorial were not just uplifting and inspirational such as Dr. King's "[I Have a Dream](#)" speech, they were also penetrating and pointed. There was a list of [Ten Demands](#) from the sponsors, insisting on a fair living wage, fair employment policies, and desegregation of school districts.

John Lewis in his speech said, "We do not want our freedom gradually but we want to be free now" and that Congress needed to pass "meaningful legislation" or people would march through the South. Although the SNCC chairman had toned down his remarks at the request of liberal and moderate allies, he still managed to criticize both political parties for moving too slowly on civil rights.

Others such as Whitney Young and Joachim Prinz spoke of the need for justice, for equal opportunity, for full access to the American Dream promised with the Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed with the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. They spoke of jobs, and of a life free from the indifference of lawmakers to people's plights.

In the end, after all of the musical performances, speeches, and politics, it was the people that truly made the March on Washington a success. They brought box lunches, having spent all they could spare to get to Washington; some dressed as if



attending a church service while others wore overalls and boots; veterans of the Civil Rights Movement and individuals new to the issues locked arms, clapped and sang and walked. Many began without their leaders, who were making their way to them from meetings on Capitol Hill. They could no longer be patient and they could no longer be held back, and so they started to march for their civil rights.

We Are in the Same Boat

By Barbara Green

Equal Opportunity Manager
NPS, Anchorage, AK

There are countless quotes attributed to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which have left an indelible impression on me, helped me through my darkest days, and motivated me to overcome obstacles I thought were insurmountable. His legacy is profound and his incomparable impact is still relevant today.

The quote that resonates with me is, "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." When I first read that quote, I thought about how we may be different from one another, yet we can share similar circumstances, which propel us onto the same boat together, rowing in tandem towards a common goal. The lure of this magazine title drew me in and perfectly captures our human existence...connections...in one capacity or another, we are tied together through our shared connections.

Another quote tucked away in my mind I rely on often to help me with a sense of purpose is, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve...you only need a heart full of grace, and a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant." No matter who we are, where we live, what we do, we can still be great by helping one another. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a recognized day of service, and although you can volunteer at a hospital, food shelter, or in any other manner to serve your community, you can still serve in other ways by simply being kind.

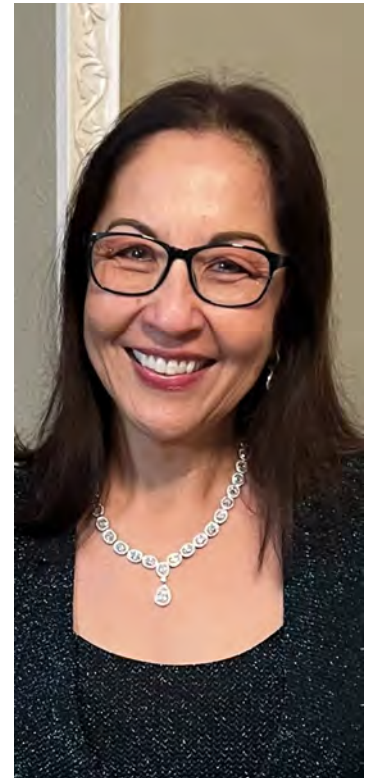
During the past two years, I have witnessed friends and colleagues suffering from mental health issues, struggling with isolation, believing no one cared, and I could empathize with those feelings. By extending an act of kindness, you are, in essence, serving and abiding by what Dr. King called upon us to do. Checking on a neighbor, reaching out to a long-lost friend, asking someone how they are and actively listening, along with genuinely expressing interest in their response, are acts of service.

Patiently waiting in a long line, driving courteously, smiling at a stranger, responding in kindness towards someone who may be unkind, because we do not know what they may be contending with, exhibits servant behavior. Whether we serve one or serve many, we are still serving. By reaching out to one person, we are reaching out to many, because by lifting one person up, they in turn will be inclined to lift up another person, and the domino effect may be far reaching.

A simple hello, an encouraging word, a heartfelt compliment, a beaming smile can do wonders for one's morale. I choose to be that servant. After all, we truly are in the same boat...we are all in this together now and let us be here for each another. As Dr. King said, "Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others," and he also said something I truly believe in and abide by, "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."

In remembrance of Dr. King, for his nonviolent activism, his monumental and enduring legacy, his compelling words of wisdom, and for helping us to make the world a better place by inspiring us to become better people, let us be mindful of his question, "What are you doing for others?" and take action, not just today, but every day, to reach out and help one another.

Thank you for your time and may 2022 be an exceptional year for you.



“I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.”

From the [Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute, Stanford University](#)

“We’ve got some difficult days ahead,” Martin Luther King, Jr., told an overflowing crowd in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3, 1968, where the city’s sanitation workers were striking. “But it really doesn’t matter with me now, because I’ve been to the mountaintop ... I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.” Less than 24 hours after these prophetic words, King was assassinated.

King had come to Memphis two times before to give aid to the

[Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike](#). On March 18th, he spoke at a rally before 15,000 people and vowed to return the following week to lead a march. [James Lawson](#) and King led a march on March 28th, which erupted in violence and was immediately called off. Against the advice of his colleagues in the [Southern Christian Leadership Conference](#), King returned to Memphis on April 3rd, seeking to restore nonviolence back to the movement in Memphis.

After arriving in Memphis, King was exhausted and had developed a sore throat and a slight fever. He asked [Ralph Abernathy](#) to take his place at that night’s scheduled mass meeting at Bishop Charles Mason Temple. As Abernathy took the podium he could sense the disappointment of the crowd, which had turned out in the hundreds to hear King speak. Abernathy called King at the hotel

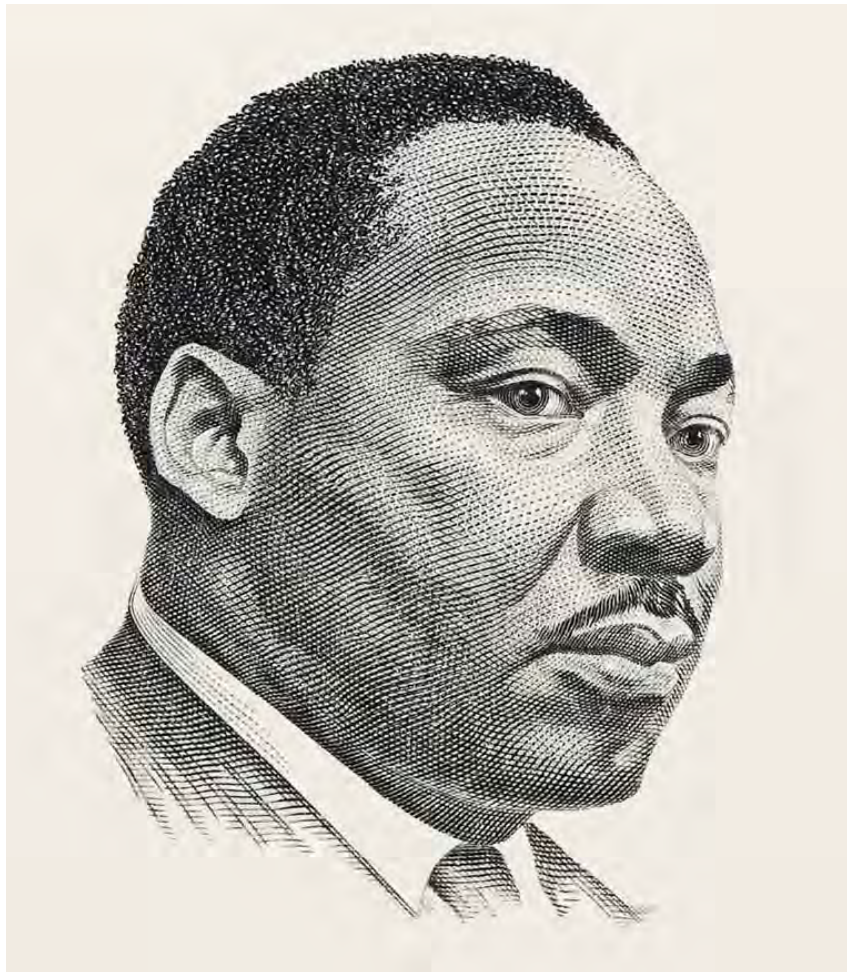
and convinced him to brave the bad weather and come down to the temple. When King arrived, the crowd gave him a standing ovation. After Abernathy introduced King, the 39-year-old leader took the podium and began to speak to the audience extemporaneously. “Something is happening in Memphis,” King said. “Something is happening in our world.” Surveying great times in history, including Egypt, the Roman Empire, the Renaissance, and the Civil War, King said he would “be happy” if God allowed him “to live just a few years in the second half of the twentieth century.”

As King recalled the events in Birmingham in 1963, he painted a bleak picture of the times, yet said this was the best time in which to live. As King concluded his speech, he began to

reminisce about his near fatal stabbing in September 1958. He exclaimed that he would have missed the emergence of the student sit-ins in 1960, the Freedom Rides in 1961, the Albany Movement in 1962, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, and the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965.

In a prophetic finale to his speech, King revealed that he was not afraid to die: “Like anybody, I would like to live a long life—longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s

will.... And so I’m happy tonight; I’m not worried about anything; I’m not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.” Witnesses, including Abernathy and [Andrew Young](#) said King had tears in his eyes as he took his seat. “This time it just seemed like he was saying, ‘Goodbye, I hate to leave,’” said Young.



SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



**Judy Forte, Superintendent, NPS, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park,
Atlanta, GA**



What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

From the Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I grew up in a family where love was central and where lovely relationships were ever present. It is quite easy for me to think of the universe as basically friendly mainly because of my uplifting hereditary and environmental circumstances. It is quite easy for me to lean more toward optimism than pessimism about human nature mainly because of my childhood experiences."

I, too, grew up with a family where love was the central theme. Even though my early childhood involved going to segregated schools, and dealing with a racially divided society, our parents taught us to love those who persecute you and to serve those in need. So as I became an adult, I leaned more toward optimism. My intent is to see the good in people always looking at the glass as half full. Dr. King's words remind me that despite what is happening in the world, keep your personal perspectives about others and your relationships with them in balance.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's words remind me of my biblical teachings and his legacy inspires me to live out my teachings. Dr. King was a great leader who lived what he believed. He not only talked the talk, but he walked the walk.

As Superintendent of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park, it has been a privilege and an honor to manage and protect the most iconic historic resources that evolve around the life and legacy of Dr. King from his birth to his death. The campus of the Historical Park includes the King Center and Ebenezer Baptist Church. The most effective part of managing the National Historical Park is when the park staff can embody Dr. King's teachings. I encourage my staff to read books that Dr. and Mrs. King have authored. I ask my staff to study Dr. and Mrs. King's legacies. Our mission is to educate, interpret and inspire others to want to learn more about Dr. King's life and legacy. To be effective at this, we need to know more about his leadership, vision, philosophy and work.

We have team meetings devoted to talking about Dr. King and Mrs. King's life and legacies and the impact they had and are still having on today's society. Everyone has an opportunity to get involved with these learning sessions to understand different aspects of his philosophy, teachings and work.

I believe that when your team is healthy on the inside, we all are better able and equipped to meet the public demands and create a healthy healing environment on the outside.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



**Kimble Talley, Supervisory Park Ranger, NPS, Golden Gate
National Recreation Area, San Francisco, CA**



What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

I really connect with this quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." This quote keeps me centered when things get hard in my community and in my work with the agency.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

He used his knowledge and experiences to make the world a better place. I live my life by his words and hope I can be just a little like him.

I have been so inspired by his life and legacy that I tried to name my son after him. My husband settled for Martin as a middle name. My son's name is Kenneth Martin Talley and he enjoys sharing the story behind his name. I hope he also can live up to Dr. King's life and legacy.

Darrell Kundargi, Hydrologist, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

The struggle for justice for all people is intertwined. As an Asian-American man and the son of immigrants, I am deeply indebted to Dr. King. His work was central to the passage of the Civil Rights bill, which led to a change in immigration laws, which led to my parent's ability to migrate to the United States. It was here that my parents met, married and raised a family. There is a very clear line between Dr. King's fight for justice, my parents, my family, my very existence and my three beautiful children. You can't get more personal than that. His struggle for Black liberation continues to uplift all people to this day.

Gary Brunette, Accountant, ONRR, Lakewood, CO

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King dared to dream. He had the courage and strength to be different and reach out to others when it was not popular or politically correct to do so. His strength of character and faith in God was certainly an example for all to follow.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Ashley Burns, Park Guide, NPS, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith, AK

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"And so Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

That's a new definition of greatness. And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

This powerful excerpt from Dr. King's sermon called "The Drum Major Instinct" has motivated me to value others as they serve in various capacities and has helped me keep my perspective on the importance of servant leadership. I strive to humbly serve others and organizations and although I stumble, volunteering and other acts of service have been incredibly impactful, fulfilling, and rewarding throughout my life.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Today, Dr. King is largely admired and remembered as a hero. And he absolutely is; however, his life was far from easy. He was ridiculed, arrested, and assassinated for what he believed, although today, we view his work as largely positive and essential to the Civil Rights Movement. His life inspires me to stand up for what I believe is right, remain humble through my trials and stumbling blocks, and remember what really matters - loving people, being kind, and serving well with positive intention during my time on this earth.

Sometimes I think about how our world would be different if Dr. King were alive today. I think it would be different, but luckily his legacy lives on in the hearts of many people. Telling his story, embodying his words and actions, it keeps his spirit with us and alive today. He is a wonderful inspiration to us all.



SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Destiny Johnson, Program Analyst, USBR, Yuma, AZ

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

When I think of Dr. King, I think of the Civil Rights Movement and his passionate speeches that brought awareness to racial equality issues during some of the most turbulent times in our nation's history. Dr. King gave hope and inspiration to so many people. While bringing hope, he dedicated his life in service to others. His words "What are you doing for others?" reminds me that even during the current unprecedented times, I can continue to help others, serve, mentor and promote diversity, equality and inclusion. In following Dr. King's example by helping others and planting seeds of hope and encouragement, we can all make a positive difference. Making a positive difference in someone else's life can have a profound impact and that difference could potentially help encourage others just as Dr. King's legacy continues to inspire generations. Despite the

busy-ness of life, this quote inspires me to make a conscious effort every day to help others, as service to one not only affects the one person, it can set in motion a legacy of service that spans from generation to generation.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was a prominent leader in the Civil Rights Movement, a minister, activist, son, father, brother and husband. Even though it's been almost 54 years since his passing, Dr. King's powerful, inspirational speeches and writings continue to impact and influence my life. During my recent visit to Washington, DC, I had the opportunity to stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. King gave his famous "I Have A Dream" speech on August 28, 1963 **[pictured, above]**. Standing in the same place 58 years after Dr. King's speech was very meaningful to me, because his words and legacy still ring true today. We should always strive to serve, help others, and be united regardless of our differences, as service, equality and inclusion are deeply rooted in the American dream.

We have an opportunity every day to make a positive difference for others. As Dr. King's legacy shows, we can continue to work together to achieve what may seem impossible, because there is always hope.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



**Jesse Edward Thompson, Jr.,
Irrigation System Operator, USBR,
Bradbury Dam, Santa Barbara, CA**

What quotes from Dr. King are particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"Let Freedom Ring from every mountain top."

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere."

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Martin inspired me by providing outstanding leadership, always supporting human rights and love for his fellow man/woman.

All Americans should be standing for the right to VOTE because if I lose my right to

vote, you do, too; There is power in the voice of WE THE PEOPLE—we don't always agree on every issue but where we do agree you need me. Taxation without representation is wrong.

Bernardo Ruiz-Meraz, Mineral Revenue Specialist, ONRR, Denver, CO

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." I like this quote because it helps to challenge us to forgive and understand not only ourselves but understand individuals who have opposing views.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's legacy has inspired me because he chose the hardest path to combat inequality. Dr. King didn't fight with violence but instead fought with courage, wisdom, and determination. This inspired me so much because it is so much easier to resort to violence to get your message across but it takes great understanding to fight an oppressor with love and compassion. He also not only fought for his race but for all races to be treated equally, which is an inspiration for all.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Jennifer Steele, Education Technician, NPS, Boston, MA

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

It is meaningful to me because I strongly believe violence is never the answer. Additionally, I choose to respond with love instead of hate because I have yet to see hate create a positive outcome. If we respond to hate with hate all we get is more hate. Choose love. Always.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's words inspired me to have hope that there will be a brighter future where we as a human race, people of all backgrounds and identities, may live together in peace. He inspires me to be a leading figure in the cause for justice and freedom. He inspires me to try my hardest as a woman of color to strive for success in a world that has not felt designed for me.

The National Park Service has an opportunity to not only use our parks to educate the public about past injustices but to bring people together to reconcile with this history. Black people deserve a time and a place to reflect on the prejudices faced both past and present. We should put our greatest effort forward to be an organization that does not condone the discrimination of any one individual based on their race.



**Mike McGraw, Supervisory Park Ranger,
USBR, New Melones Lake, Angels Camp, CA**

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." Also: "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in great ways."

These quotes capture the importance of individual dignity and self-worth, doing whatever task you've currently chosen if life with necessary enthusiasm and passion.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

His commitment, vision and unwavering energy in helping to ensure basic human rights and dignity to all. Correcting the wrongs of the past by inspiration and the challenge that as a nation we can only move forward together and succeed when everyone has a vested interest in that success. MLK Jr. Day is an incredibly important day to reflect on ways we need to improve ourselves and that of the nation in which we live.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Christina Mitchell, Personnel Security Specialist, BSEE, Sterling, VA

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"And when you rise to love on this level, you begin to love men, not because they are likeable, but because God loves them." I believe that Love can change the world. Love will bring harmony in homes, communities, and relationships. Love brings understanding and reconciliation. Love can bring healing to our hurting world.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

His legacy inspires and challenges me to love even when I don't understand. "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

Linda Bozeman, Production Accountability Specialist, BLM, Lakewood, CO

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that."

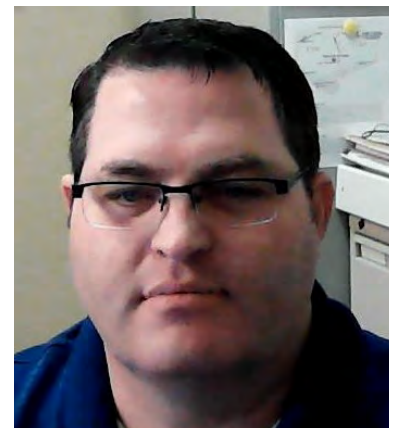
How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

He inspires me to be honest.

Mark Wimmer, Monument Manager, BLM, St. George, UT

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"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 their character."



SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



**Kemba Anderson, Fluid Minerals Branch Chief, BLM,
Denver, CO**

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

This quote is also the theme for the holiday. King gave his life so everyone could be considered equal and have the same experience in the workplace, education, etc. As a public servant and manager, we can inspire and empower others to do what is right.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Growing up in Georgia, Dr. King's legacy and contribution to American History inspired me to want to be a change leader. In my hometown of Dublin, GA, the Church (First African Baptist Church) I was raised in was the site of his first public speech at the age of 14. He did not win the oratorical contest but the experience on the ride home made him want to make a change. My philosophy on life is that "it takes one person to make a change, but a society to make a difference." Here at DOI we are all change leaders in our realm whether it is making policy or increasing diversity within the workplace.

David Tancig, IT Specialist/Customer Support, BLM, Lewistown, MT

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

He spoke with clarity and focused on a single purpose of humankind embracing each other and working together so we could all strive for and achieve our excellence.

I sincerely hope everyone has the opportunity to see the movie *Hidden Figures*, based on the book. It's stunning. I'm something of a mathematician. All my life I've kept my eyes open for hero mathematicians. At a critical moment in the space race, to which our country had attached a lot of our identity, it was two women of color who got our first astronauts back alive. The key was [Katherine Johnson's](#) hard won effort to teach herself advanced math. When you do that, you learn many different approaches to solving problems because that's what the old books teach and then she was able to get access to more advanced concepts. Then there was [Dorothy Vaughan](#), who taught herself Fortran because she knew NASA would need to use it and then taught it to her team.

When I was an Army officer, I was discussing race with a Sergeant about my age. I made the statement that I was fair with everyone and didn't care about someone's color. He replied, "That's the problem. You don't care about color." It took me a few years to realize the truth of the point he was making. In our society, if you don't want to see color, you're not going to see the injustices that need to be corrected. That's a truth that our Nation needs to take in and understand.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Myranda Whitesides, Performance Support Specialist, IBC, Denver, CO

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"The time is always right to do what is right."

A quote like this reminds me that it's never a bad thing to treat others with kindness. You don't need to wait for anything. You don't even need to be having a good day. We all have our struggles that we are dealing with and it costs us nothing to be kind to others, always.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King really embodied the idea behind standing up for what is right. He was able to call out injustice in a powerful, yet tactful way. He empowered others, he encouraged others, and he would not back down from his vision. He believed in the power of love and in the power of action. I use these notions in my interactions with my fellow people every day and could not imagine a world without that kind of motivation.

Taffy Miller, General Engineer, BIA, Navajo Region, NM

What quotes from Dr. King are particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at time of challenge and controversy." "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King understood the suffering of our country's Indigenous peoples. He said, "Our nation was born in genocide when it embraced the doctrine that the original American, the Indian, was an inferior race. Even before there were large numbers of Negroes on our shores, the scar of racial hatred had already disfigured colonial society. We are perhaps the only nation which tried as a matter of national policy to wipe out its Indigenous population. Moreover, we elevated that tragic experience into a noble crusade."

Lola Crump-Harris, BSEE Oil Spill Preparedness Division, Sterling, VA

What quotes from Dr. King are particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

I sincerely believe one should never consider silence when faced with acts of hatred and crimes against humanity, especially when the words spoken or actions taken spread love and contribute towards the greater good to uproot and end indignities driven by direct or indirect discrimination.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Paula Hutchings, Auditor, ONRR, Tulsa, OK

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." This statement brought me to the realization of how true this is in human nature. While we wish we could state an injustice and a compromise would be done, our thoughts are almost always self-centered in what we have to give up. To be heard the oppressed always has to be loud and bold. This statement made me realize it's just part of the process no matter how painful it is.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

He inspires me in his steadfastness. He insisted in nonviolent protest. He demanded it. He never wavered from his Christian values of loving his brother as himself and speaking truth in a way that was meant to bring understanding and shine a light on the situation without condemnation. He was an honorable man that was loved by many in all parts of the world. Leading without compromising made him trustworthy and strong.

I don't think many people realize how young Dr. King was at his death (only 39 years old). It is heartbreaking to think how our whole world could have been different had he lived and continued to carry out many more years of insightful, inspired leadership.

Marty Heinze, Economist, BOEM, Sterling, VA

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

Very similar to MLK's most famous quote from his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King wrote that "the important thing about a man is not the color of his skin or the texture of his hair but the texture and quality of his soul."

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

I was born two months after Dr. King's death. It is not a coincidence my first name is "Martin" and my patron saint is Saint Martin De Porres. My parents thought both would serve as good role models. Because of this association I've read biographies and studied their lives and writings more than I would otherwise. Both lived lives that serve as examples of commitment and selfless service.

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



**Grisel Madera, Visitor and Resource Protection Park Ranger, NPS,
Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park, Atlanta, GA**

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. But today our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas...."

This quote from Dr. King's book [Where do we go from here: Community or Chaos](#) (pages 171-172) is particularly meaningful to me because these words still ring as true as if those words were spoken today. Some that are not affected by certain issues or choose to look down or away from what others are going through are still ever so present. I love the idea of collaboration, for perspectives to be shared and truly listening to understand others as these are ways to keep us "awake" and ever evolving. Change in nature is constant (seasons for example), without it there is no challenge, no growth. Dr. King challenged the status quo of that time and made our American society grow through his sacrifice.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's words and legacy have shifted my career and have brought a new chapter of perspective, respect and that have ever changed me since working at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park. As a Law Enforcement Park Ranger, I am inspired to speak up, reach inside of myself to find a different kind of courage that is beyond my training, title and a badge, share my view as a Hispanic female and mother, listen with compassion and share goodness, inspiration, motivation, kindness or hope whenever or wherever I can.

It allows me remember the impact of my role doing law enforcement in today's society as a whole.



SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Anthony Ray, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, WY

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"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."

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

As an Atlanta native, Dr. King shaped the legacy of my home town. I have sought to live up to that legacy, and represent Dr. King and Atlanta by engaging in civil and human rights discussions. I seek to bridge gaps in perception, and have honest conversations about race, racism, bigotry and prejudice.



Kathryn L. Crepeau, Physical Science Technician, USGS, California Water Science Center, Sacramento, CA

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

All of the "I have a dream" speech is meaningful to me, but for a quote, "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. And, "... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." Every word of this speech has deep meaning for me. It describes the high place of freedom and justice that we as a nation and people are moving towards. May we respect each other as we strive to live a free, just and loving nation under God.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

He inspires me to care even more deeply about each other as brothers and sisters. We are all God's children and we need to keep striving to live together in unity.

I just have to add this quote too: "I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together." I know that day is coming, maybe not in my lifetime but someday the glory of the Lord will be revealed. Praise the Lord.

Above: Kathryn with Danny and Sophie, her two Gordon Setters, at home in Woodland, CA

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Brian Schwieger, Park Ranger, NPS, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Little Rock, AK

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"You must meet physical force with soul force."

A day after the 101st Airborne arrived at Little Rock Central High School under orders from President Dwight Eisenhower, Dr. King provided this encouragement in a telegram to [Daisy Bates](#), and by proxy to the Little Rock Nine.

Watched by a captivated television audience, the ongoing integration crisis in Little Rock witnessed repeated demonstrations of physical force at Central High over the previous weeks by the Arkansas National Guard, the Little Rock Police Department, and angry mobs determined to deny an educational opportunity for a small group of brave and determined African American teenagers.

Dr. King urged Mrs. Bates, the leader of the NAACP in Arkansas and mentor to the Little Rock Nine, not to stop her fight for integration, but to press on toward "freedom and justice" with dignity and a commitment to nonviolence.

As an interpreter for the National Park Service at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, I am grateful for the influence and inspiration Dr. King provided throughout the year-long struggle for desegregation in Little Rock, something I can share with visitors.

In the wind of rhetoric spewed by Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus amid an unprecedented conflict, Dr. King consistently promoted a message of peace over violence.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

I am moved by Dr. King as we find ourselves again in moments of physical force; his message of nonviolence has not lost its relevance over the last half century.

Dr. King the man motivates me; he was a "vulnerable, fallible human being - uncertain about his public role and aware of his limitations as a leader."

[Clayborne Carson](#)

It is my sincerest hope that the words of Dr. King's telegram ring true as we continue through moments of challenge and controversy: "History is on your side. World opinion is with you."

Pictured, left: Brian with Elizabeth Eckford, one of the [Little Rock Nine](#).



SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



**Shawn Robinson, Commercial and Special Park Uses Specialist,
NPS, New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Fayette, WV**

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
This is meaningful because there is too much hate in this world (still).



***How do Dr. King's words and
legacy inspire you?***

Quite simply, his courage to make the world a better place inspires me. He makes me want to be a better person and do good things.

When our daughter Alexa was 5 years old, we read a short book to her about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The next day she went to school and asked her kindergarten classmates about him and whether they thought he was a good person or a bad person. I don't know if a lot of her classmates even knew who he was at that age in their lives. Alexa told them he was a good guy. If it wasn't for Martin Luther King, Jr., fellow classmates like Amiya, Javonte, and Matthew would have gone to different schools than them. And that is why Martin Luther King Jr. is a hero to her.

***Pictured, left: Dave, Alexa, and
Shawn Robinson at the birth home
of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Lena Chang, Biologist and Information Coordinator, USFWS, Office of Emergency Management & Physical Security, Washington, DC

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

There is an extraordinary sentence in Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail - it is a single sentence, over 300 words long, and incredibly impactful. It so heartbreakingly describes generations of inequality and pain - and the urgency for equality and justice:

"But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an

affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five year old son who is asking: 'Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?'; when you take a cross county drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading 'white' and 'colored'; when your first name becomes 'nigger,' your middle name becomes 'boy' (however old you are) and your last name becomes 'John,' and your wife and mother are never given

the respected title 'Mrs.'; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness'--then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's legacy and words inspire me to be a more empathic, compassionate, patient and grateful human being.

Left: My last trip to the nation's capital was in January of 2020. My friend Danielle Brigida and I spent Dr. King's birthday in the National Mall and visited his memorial and the steps where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.



SPECIAL SECTION DR. KING'S LEGACY



Jen Seron, Park Ranger of Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services, NPS, Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, NY

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

"I have a dream . . ." because I have visions of solutions to big issues and am inspired by MLK's work and life. But I also equally love this Martin Luther King, Jr. quote about leadership. Why? Because although there are many charismatic leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. clarifies that we must look beyond the superficial and focus on the leader's deeper commitment to integrity, justice, humanity, and greatness of the cause.

"May I stress the need for courageous, intelligent, and dedicated leadership... Leaders of sound integrity. Leaders not in love with publicity, but in love with justice. Leaders not in love with money, but in love with humanity. Leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause." - MLK

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's words and life inspire me to step up and step into gaps, to be open to visions and dreams, and to try to help optimize and actualize the potential of every person, situation, and environment in which I find myself. I am inspired by this man, Martin Luther King, Jr. who was willing to step up and step into the gap where he was needed. I am inspired by how he found the courage, had the intelligence, and was willing to dedicate himself to making the world a better place for all of us alive then and into the future. I am inspired by his self-awareness and even in the face of threats to his own life and safety, he kept on doing what he knew needed to be done. If all of us lived as if the world depended upon our daily decisions and actions we could shift the framework today, peacefully and with love. I am a feisty breast cancer survivor and keenly feel that we are all here to participate together in healing the world, each in our own way, place, and time. Every one of us has something to do, wherever we find ourselves.

Acquanetta Newson, EEO Specialist, ODICR, Embrace Division, Washington, DC

What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

Dr. King's quote "the time is always right to do what is right" is meaningful to me because I believe that it is never too late to stand up for justice and against what you consider is wrong. We must all take a stand to stand up for what is wrong and injustice everywhere.

How do Dr. King's words and legacy inspire you?

Dr. King's words and legacy inspire me to be the change that I want to see in the world and for us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

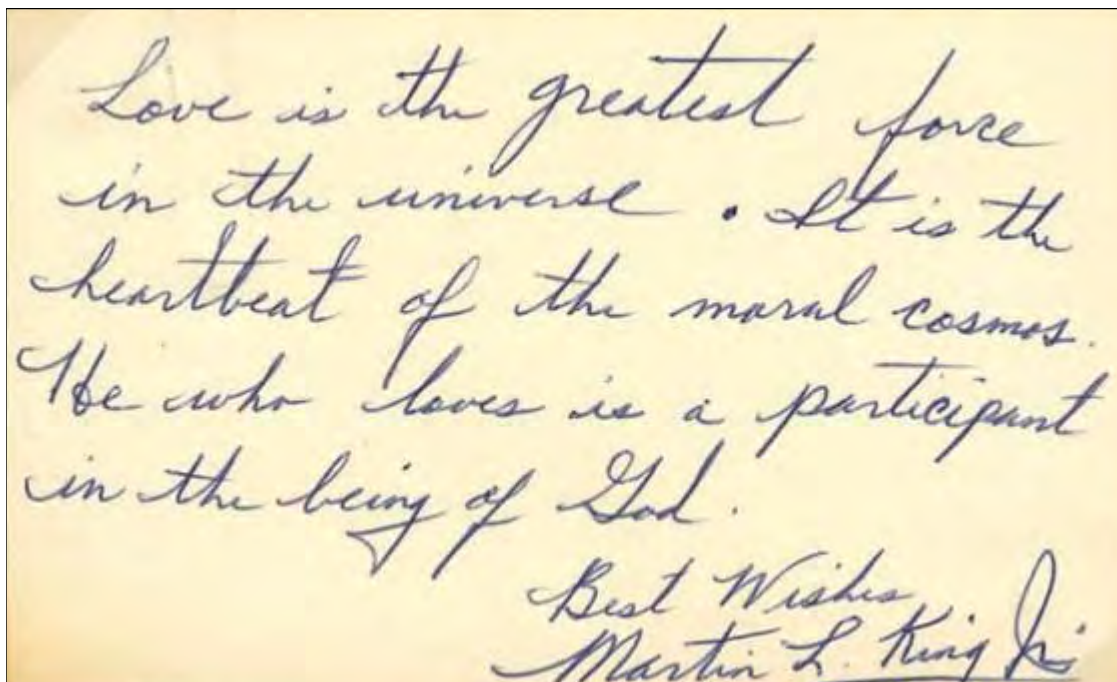


Shelita Saint-Louis, Division Chief, IBC, Acquisitions Directorate, Herndon, VA

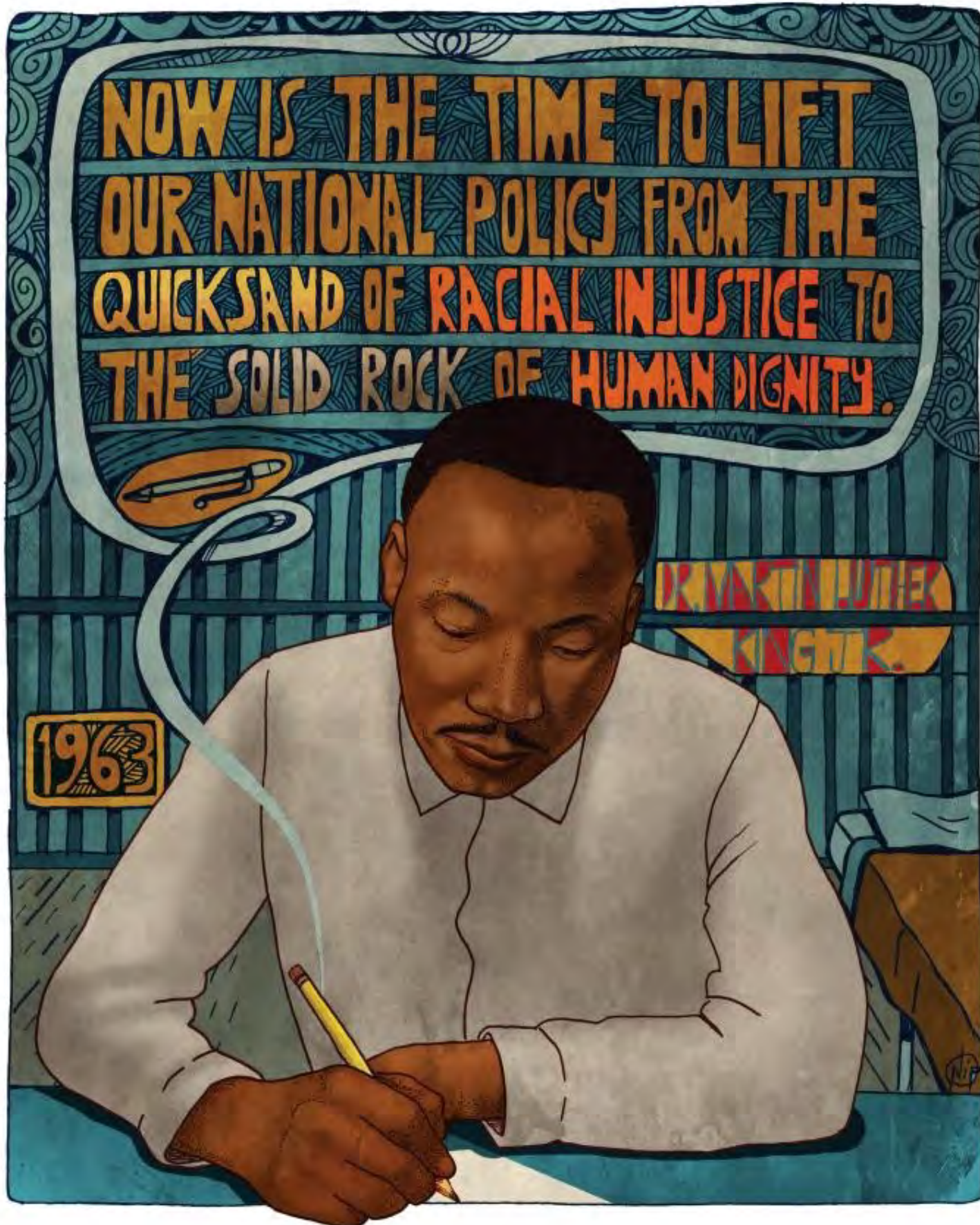
What quote from Dr. King is particularly meaningful to you, and why?

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

This quote resonates with me because it is a great reminder that in order to effect change, one must be bold and confident in being the “light.” Perhaps more than ever, the world today needs to see more light bearers. Light can take on many forms; it can be being different and/or having an unpopular, positive position. This quote challenges us to dare to be different and not just go along with the crowd. In times of darkness, to show light, one can offer hope, encouragement, kindness, and compassion. Light may be reflected by offering wisdom and guidance, or by offering joy. Dr. King’s quote emphasizes that in order to be the light, it is imperative to be rooted in love!



A handwritten note from Dr. King believed to be circa 1962 was recently discovered.



This quote is drawn from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "[Letter From a Birmingham Jail](#)." Written as a response to local clergy's "call for unity" during the protests of 1963, the letter's defense of nonviolent resistance and its insistence on justice for all have made it a foundational text of both the civil rights movement and history classrooms.

Illustration by Nip Rogers (used with permission)

Honoring Dr. King: International Stamps



Dr. King's legacy is honored by countries far and wide on official stamps. Pictured here are the two U.S. stamps issued [top left], along with stamps from Mali, India, the Republic of the Congo, Sweden, Samoa, Gabon, Liberia, Ghana and Yemen. A complete listing of stamps is available [here](#).

CORETTA SCOTT KING

From [The King Center](#)

Coretta Scott King was one of the most influential women leaders in our world. Prepared by her family, education, and personality for a life committed to social justice and peace, she entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement. Her remarkable partnership with Dr. King resulted not only in four children, who became dedicated to carrying forward their parent's work, but also in a life devoted to the highest values of human dignity in service to social change.

Mrs. King traveled throughout the world speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, full-employment, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and environmental justice. She lent her support to pro-democracy movements worldwide and consulted with many world leaders, including Corazon Aquino, Kenneth Kaunda, and Nelson Mandela.

Born and raised in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston she met Martin Luther King, Jr. who was then studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, with Coretta Scott King assuming the many responsibilities of pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King devoted most of her time to raising their four children: Yolanda Denise (1955), Martin Luther, III (1957), Dexter Scott (1961), and Bernice Albertine (1963).



From the earliest days, however, she balanced mothering and Movement work, speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal and peace groups. She conceived and performed a series of favorably-reviewed Freedom Concerts which combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections and functioned as significant fundraisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the direct action organization of which Dr. King served as first president.

In 1957, she and Dr. King journeyed to Ghana to mark that country's independence. In 1958, they spent a belated honeymoon in Mexico, where they observed first-hand the immense gulf between extreme wealth and extreme poverty. In 1959, Dr. and Mrs. King spent nearly a month in India on a pilgrimage to disciples and sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi. In 1964, she accompanied him to Oslo, Norway, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

[cont'd]

Remembering Coretta Scott King

Even prior to her husband's public stand against the Vietnam War in 1967, Mrs. King functioned as liaison to peace and justice organizations, and as mediator to public officials on behalf of the unheard.

After her husband's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King founded and devoted great energy and commitment to building and developing programs for the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer of The King Center, she dedicated herself to providing local, national and international programs



that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods; she guided the creation and housing of the largest archives of documents from the Civil Rights Movement; and, perhaps her greatest legacy after establishing The King Center itself, Mrs. King spearheaded the massive educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday.

In 1983, an act of Congress instituted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which she chaired for its duration. And in January 1986, Mrs. King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband, a holiday which has come to be celebrated by millions of people world-wide and, in some form, in over 100 countries.

Coretta Scott King tirelessly carried the message of nonviolence and the dream of the beloved community to almost every corner of our nation and globe. She led goodwill missions to many countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. She spoke at many of history's most massive peace and justice rallies. She served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the seventeen-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962. She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

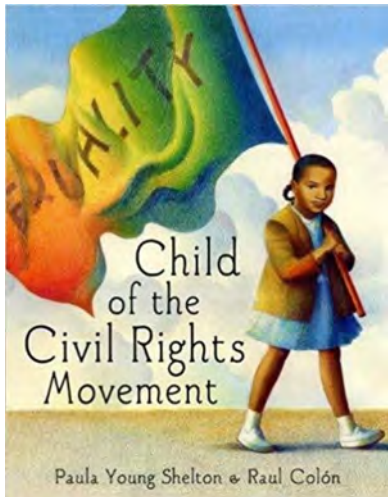


A life-long advocate of interracial coalitions, in 1974 Mrs. King formed a broad coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity, as Co-Chair of both the National Committee for Full Employment and the Full Employment Action Council.

In 1983, she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience, sponsors of the 20th Anniversary March on Washington, until then the largest demonstration ever held in our nation's capital. In 1987, she helped lead a national Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in Forsyth County, Georgia. In 1988, she re-convened the Coalition of Conscience for the 25th anniversary of the March on Washington. In preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks, in 1988 she served as head of the U.S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in Athens, Greece; and in 1990, as the USSR was redefining itself, Mrs. King was co-convenor of the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, DC.

Mrs. King passed away on January 30, 2006.

Recommendations: Books for Children



(By the American Library Association)

< **Child of the Civil Rights Movement:** The youngest daughter of civil rights leader Andrew Young shares a time when she and her two older sisters moved from New York to Atlanta to protest and ultimately change unfair laws.

> **Martin's Big Words:** Martin Luther King Jr. grew up fascinated by big words. He would later go on to use these words to inspire a nation and call people to action. In this award-winning book, powerful portraits of King show how he used words, not weapons, to fight injustice.

< **Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King:** The significance and impact of Dr. King and why his birthday is celebrated is presented in a handsome package. Fluid text combines with stunning illustrations done in scratchboard and paint, to make a sometimes difficult subject accessible to younger children.

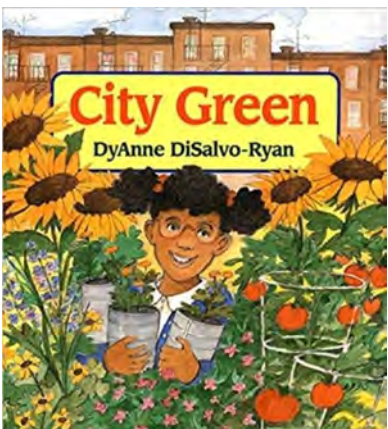
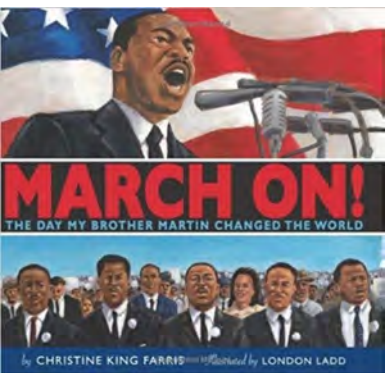
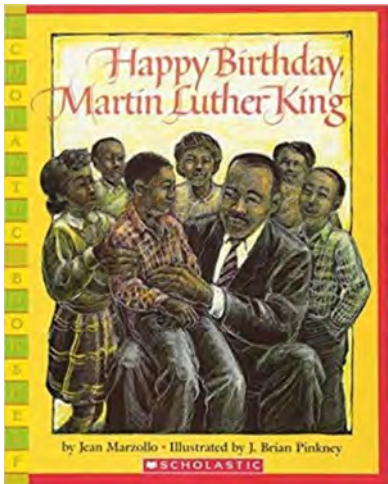
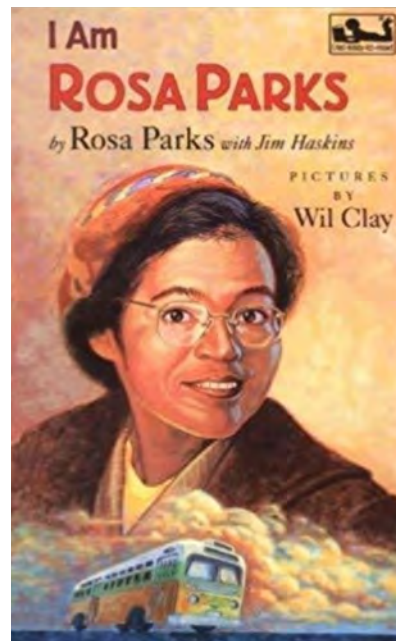
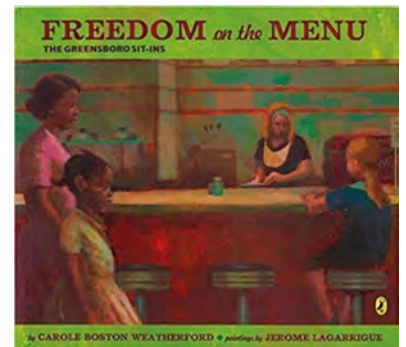
> **Freedom on the Menu—the Greensboro Sit-ins:** A girl and her mom want to have a sweet treat on a hot day but cannot sit at the soda fountain simply because they are “colored.” Impressionistic paintings soften the harshness of the story of segregation in the South during a turbulent time.

< **March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World:** Martin Luther King, Jr. prepared diligently for his now famous “I have a dream” speech given on August 28, 1963 during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. This informal account is both personal and satisfying as revealed by Martin’s older sister who watched it on television with their parents in Atlanta.

> **I Am Rosa Parks:** The famous civil rights activist Rosa Parks has simplified her autobiography for young readers in this Puffin Easy to Read book. She describes how she was arrested for not giving up her bus seat and shows that her personal role was part of a wider political struggle.

< **City Green:** There is a garbage-filled, vacant lot on the street where Marcy lives. Instead of growing flowers in coffee cans like they usually do each spring, she and her friend Miss Rosa decide to plant a garden there. Their enthusiasm and energy spread and everyone in the neighborhood joins together to create an urban oasis.

> **Freedom Summer:** Joe and John Henry are friends who have many interests in common, including swimming. But because John Henry has brown skin and Joe’s is the “color of pale moths,” they cannot swim together in the town’s pool. Told by Joe and eloquently illustrated, the emotions and power of friends trying to understand an unfriendly world are timeless.



VANGUARD AWARD

LEADING THE WAY

ADVOCATING FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

ACQUANETTA NEWSON

DOI OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND CIVIL RIGHTS



The *Vanguard Award* is presented by the *Connections* Team to recognize and celebrate the achievements of DOI employees who lead the way championing equity and inclusion. For January, the *Connections* Team is delighted to honor **Acquanetta Newson**, Lead Special Emphasis Program Manager, DOI Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights.

There are almost as many [Special Emphasis Programs \(SEPs\)](#) in Interior as there are offices, bureaus and locations, and Acquanetta does a masterful job connecting these diverse, disparate SEPs together by sharing information, strategizing ideas, aligning initiatives to complement each other, and assuring that every individual member of the DOI family feels seen and heard.

Acquanetta tirelessly supports hundreds of Diversity Partners with her depth of knowledge and especially her cheery demeanor, which never wanes. All who know her think of Acquanetta with great affection, grateful for all she has done to for the DOI family.

For her outstanding advocacy and continuing efforts on behalf of DOI employees, the *Connections* Team presents Acquanetta Newson with our *Vanguard Award* for January 2022.



NON-VIOLENT PROTEST: In a 1959 radio address during his visit to India, King said: “Today we no longer have a choice between violence and nonviolence; it is either nonviolence or nonexistence.” His philosophy was inspired by Gandhi’s nonviolent action to end British rule in India. In his turn, King inspired others to change their societies through nonviolent means, from the Solidarity movement’s cracking of Soviet occupation in Poland to Nelson Mandela’s struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.

FIGHTING PREJUDICE: During the 1963 March on Washington, King declared that all people should be judged not “by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” The King Center in Atlanta is a living memorial to King’s vision of a free and equal world dedicated to expanding opportunity, fighting racism and ending all forms of discrimination.

PURSUING SOCIAL JUSTICE: The Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University is home to the King Papers Project, a comprehensive collection of all of King’s speeches, correspondence and other writings. The institute is also involved with the Liberation Curriculum Initiative and the Gandhi-King Community, both of which use King’s life and ideas to connect social activists around the world working to promote human rights.

SERVICE TO OTHERS: In the United States, Martin Luther King Day is designated a national day of service. Americans celebrate “a day on, not a day off” in honor of King’s commitment to improving the lives of others.



The Connections Team

is an engaged group of talented volunteers from across Interior who produce Connections Magazine, sponsor roundtable discussions and seek to foster greater understanding around inclusion, equity and respect regarding Special Emphasis Program (SEP) areas. SEPs are implemented and observed throughout the Department of the Interior primarily to ensure that all are provided an equal opportunity in all aspects of employment. These programs encourage employees to appreciate, value, understand, and celebrate social and cultural similarities and differences.

We would be delighted to have join us in our efforts by:

- *Shaping subject matter for each magazine*
- *Creating and submitting content*
- *Participating in and hosting virtual observances and informal discussions*

Do you have a particular enthusiasm for an upcoming monthly commemoration?

- *February: Black History*
- *March: Women's History*
- *April: Arab-American History and Autism Awareness*
- *May: Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage*
- *June: LGBTQIA+ Pride*
- *July: Caribbean-American Heritage*

Please reach out here - and THANK YOU for your interest!



Interior's Employee Assistance Program provider, **Espyr**, is here for employees and their dependents. **Espyr** provides confidential counseling and consultation at no cost via

telephone or other virtual means. A live counselor is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-869-0276 or visit [espyr.com](https://www.espyr.com) (Password: InteriorEAP).