

NEWS PG 2

LA ARCHITECT PLAYED KEY ROLE IN KING MEMORIAL

NEWS PG 2

CBC CONTINUES TO LEAD ON ISSUE OF VOTING RIGHTS

NEWS PG 5

LA OPERATIONS FEATURED AT CAREER FAIR

City of Baker hosting annual MLK Day virtually event on January 17



Baker La. Mayor Darnell Waites

BAKER, La. — On this, the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Event hosted by the City of Baker, we come together as a community in honor of the man and the vision he gifted to the world. We seek to remember his life, which was marked by service to his community, state and nation, by encouraging our friends and neighbors to join us as we seek to find ways to continue Dr. King's legacy and honor his memory.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a National Day of Service. Although it can be difficult during the pandemic to find meaningful ways to serve, there are many options. Some local opportunities include volunteering with local food banks, BREC, EBR Libraries or Capital Area CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Educational opportunities are available by visiting <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/> which stores an online archive of "The King Papers," a comprehensive collection of Dr. King's most significant correspondence, sermons, speeches, published writings, and unpublished

See BAKER, on page 2

OTHER STORIES ONLINE



WEATHER



MON. 01/17
Sunny
High 57°.



TUE. 01/18
Partly Cloudy
High 66°.



WED. 01/19
PM Showers
High 72°.



THUR. 01/20
AM Showers
High 60°.

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Biden in voting rights battle



Thousands marched in midtown Manhattan on December 10, 2011, to defend voting rights. By Michael Fleshman.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

The coming weeks will tell if President Joe Biden's "forceful" voting rights speech in Georgia on Tuesday, January 11, results in any tangible movement to blunt suppressing laws in Republican-led states around the country.

Notably, the next several days will also reveal whether Democrats have the resolve, strength, and even the negotiating skills to get one of their own on board with changing Senate filibuster rules.

Doing so would allow the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to pass.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) continues to oppose any filibuster changes staunchly.

The conservative has displayed an unwillingness to help push through bills that would help level the playing field for many underserved Americans — including his constituents in the Mountain State. "The next few days, when these bills come to a vote, will mark a

turning point in this nation. Will we choose democracy over autocracy, light over shadow, justice over injustice?" President Biden asserted in excerpts of a speech released before his Georgia visit.

"I know where I stand. I will not yield. I will not flinch," the President continued.

"I will defend your right to vote and our democracy against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And so, the question is where will the institution of United States Senate stand?" White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki called the President's words "forceful."

"He's quite focused on ensuring the American people understand what's at stake here," Psaki insisted. "He will forcefully advocate for protecting the most bedrock American rights: the right to vote and have your voice counted in a free, fair, and secure election that is not tainted ... by partisan manipulation."

Psaki continued: "He'll make clear in the former district of the late Congressman John Lewis that the only way to do that is for the Senate to pass



President Joe Biden delivered a major speech on voting rights at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act."

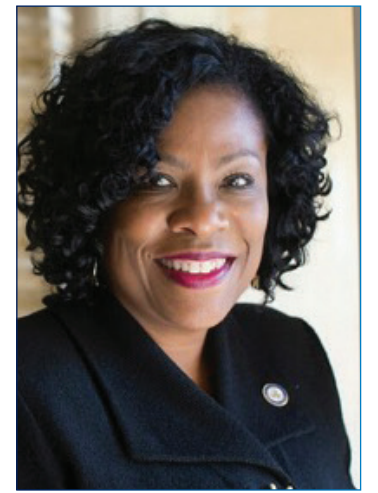
Despite an expected "no" vote from Manchin, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) insisted he would bring to the chamber measures to alter or abolish the filibuster.

He said he would push for a vote on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

To do so, all 50 Senate Democrats must vote in the affirmative. All 50 GOP Senators likely will

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Mayor Broome announces Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announces the launch of MLK Holiday BR — an annual extended series of initiatives, programs, and service projects that honors the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration is set to begin on Wednesday, January 12 and continue through the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday on Monday, January 17.

"In past years, various organizations have produced individual events and service projects to honor the late civil rights leader, but in 2022 my administration is collaborating with our core partners and a steering committee to unify government, organizations, and residents," said Mayor Broome. "We are creating the foundation of year-round community conversation, engagement, and service in Baton Rouge."

We aim to advance the Baton Rouge community in three key areas: literacy, youth empowerment, and equity and justice through partnership community organizations such as: the NAACP; BREC; EBR Schools; The Walls Project; NBR Now; EBR Parish Library; Big Buddy; Healthy BR; the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge; the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council; 100 Black Men; and the Baton Rouge Alliance for Students.

"This year's theme "Walking In Legacy" recognizes and celebrates Baton Rouge's past and present work for social justice, while preparing for the future of African American progress, right here in the capital city," said Mayor Broome. "This collaboration will create an on-going united celebration for the entire parish, setting aside an extended time to honor Dr. King's legacy of leader-

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LOCAL & STATE

Congressional Black Caucus continues to lead on the issue of voting rights

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and the Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement:

“We are proud to stand with President Biden and Vice President Harris today in Georgia — the birthplace of voting rights champions Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and our dear late Congressman John Lewis — as they call for a carve out of the Senate legislative filibuster. The fierce urgency of now requires we remain committed to ensuring voting rights is a priority. Protecting the cornerstone of our democracy — the sacred right to vote — is non-negotiable. We must use every avenue available to us to defend the most foundational pillar of American democracy, especially as we face unprecedented threats to our democracy. The Congressional Black Caucus will never waiver in our defense of equal access to the ballot box and has voted consistently to protect the right to vote. Today, we are calling on the Senate to take swift action on voting rights,” said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty.

“Last year, at least 19 states passed 34 laws to restrict access to the ballot box. These dangerous attacks undermine faith in our elections and rob Americans — especially Americans of color — of their fundamental right to participate in our democracy. As we start a new year, the Senate must seize the moment and pass comprehensive voting rights legislation to guarantee safe, secure, and free elections for voters,” said Congressman Steven Horsford. “History is watching, and the time to act is now.”

“The unprecedented attacks on our democracy and the sacred right to vote — particularly that of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other marginalized communities — make

plain that we are still in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement, and we must legislate accordingly,” said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. “Dr. King rightfully called out the Jim Crow filibuster as a major barrier to progress and civil rights, and preserving the filibuster should not be more important than preserving our democracy. To truly honor his legacy, we must abolish the filibuster so we can pass meaningful voting rights legislation, keep power in the hands of the people, and legislate to address the hurt and harm inflicted on our communities through generations of policy violence. We need to move with urgency and I’m glad President Biden and Vice President Harris are taking action.”

“The right to vote is the foundation of a true democracy,” said Congresswoman Kelly. “This right is under attack across the country. We cannot sit by and watch as our democratic process is threatened. We must act now to protect this fundamental right for generations to come.”

“Our democracy is in crisis, and it has long been clear that the only way to save it is to reform the Jim Crow filibuster to pass vital voting rights legislation,” said Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-NY). “As the proud author of key provisions of both the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the first member of Congress to call on President Biden to publicly endorse filibuster reform for voting rights, I am thrilled to see the President engaging in this fight with the full force of his office. With Republicans in Washington and around the country working nonstop to suppress the vote and undermine free and fair elections, time is of the essence.”

MLK Day Events

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Date: Monday, January 17, 2022
Time: 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Locations: various Baton Rouge sites
Contact: oma@lsu.edu or 225-578-4339

Register for MLK Day of Service

Each year, approximately 250+ volunteers comprised of LSU students, staff, and community members make it “a day on not a day off” and engage in service projects through MLK Day of Service. Your participation is key to our impactful service. Individuals as well as organizations will be able to reserve their spots at a later date. Volunteers should wear tennis shoes and clothing that are appropriate for service work. Masks are required.

Schedule:

- 7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast
- 8:00 AM Welcome
- 8:30 AM Buses Depart
- 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Service Projects
- 1:00 PM Buses Return to LSU; Lunch

All volunteers are required to complete and show the results of the daily symptom checker at the Day of Service registration.

MLK COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Location: LSU Student Union Theater
Contact: oma@lsu.edu or 225-578-4339

The 2022 MLK Commemorative Program will feature David Dennis, Sr. as the keynote speaker. Dennis is a civil rights activist, who participated notably in the Civil Rights Movement. He worked as co-director of the Council of Confederate Organizations (COFO), as director of Mississippi’s Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and as one of the organizers of the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. Dennis’ first involvement in the Civil Rights Movement was at a sit-in organized by CORE and he went on to become a Freedom Rider in 1961. More recently Dennis has put his activism toward a new project, the Algebra Project, which is a nonprofit organization run by Bob Moses that aims to improve mathematics education for minority children. Dennis also speaks about his experiences in the movement.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Masks are required.

If you have any questions, please call us at 225-578-4339, or email us at oma@lsu.edu. We look forward to seeing you at the 2022 MLK keynote address!

VOTING from page 1

vote against each of those measures. Vice President Kamala Harris would cast the tie-breaking vote, giving Democrats the majority. Georgia stands among 19 states that have passed voter suppression laws since Republican Donald Trump lost the presidency to Joe Biden in 2020. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 34 voter restriction or suppression laws have passed across the country since the 2020 election, where Trump and some Republicans falsely claimed fraud. Brennan Center officials noted that 13 more restrictive laws are in the works, including one in Georgia that would ban the use of ballot boxes altogether. Before President Biden visited Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s family said they didn’t want any celebrations of the slain civil rights hero’s national holiday unless meaningful voting rights legislation passed.

Further, the Asian American Advocacy Fund, Atlanta North Georgia

Labor Council, Black Voters Matter Fund, GALEO Impact Fund, and New Georgia Project Action Fund boycotted President Biden’s speech. They demanded that the President remain in Washington where he might help usher through voting legislation to protect disenfranchised voters.

“We don’t need another speech. What we need is action. What we need is a plan,” demanded Cliff Albright, executive director of the Black Voters Matter Fund.

While Sen. Schumer has called on his colleagues to vote on filibuster and voting rights legislation by January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, White House officials said they’re working hard to help get legislation passed.

“We understand the frustration by many advocates that this is not passed into law yet,” Psaki stated. “[President Biden] would love to have signed this into law himself. But [the speech] is an opportunity to speak about what the path forward looks like to advocate for — for this moving forward in the Senate.”

Louisiana Architect played key role in King Memorial on National Mall in Washington DC

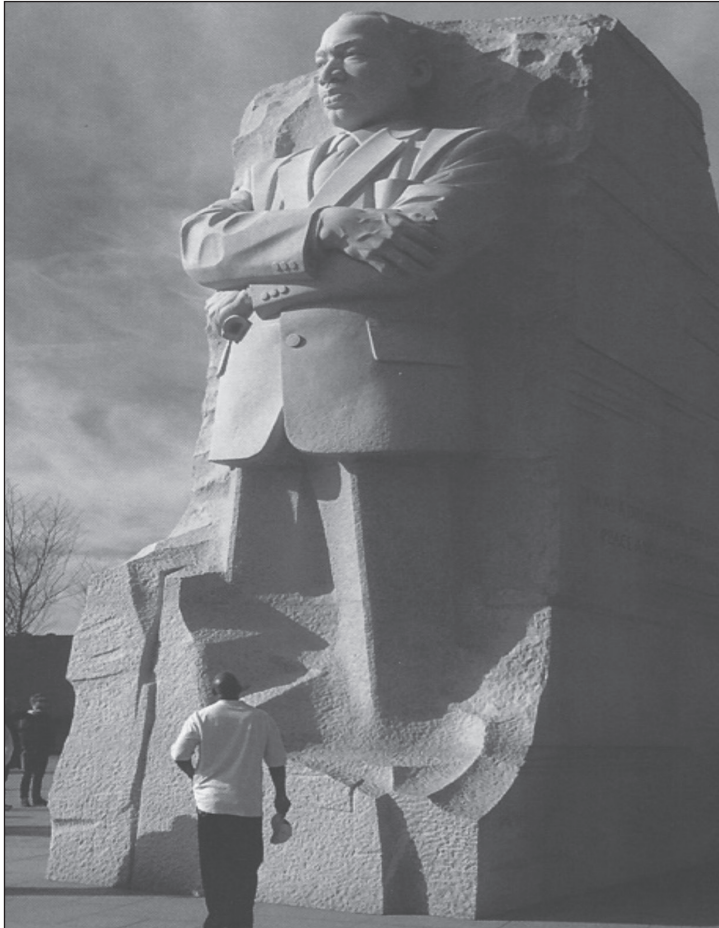


Dr. James A. Chaffers, DArch, FAIA, NCARB

By Mary Wells

Establishing a memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. is an intricate matter. The challenge is to invoke an effective, meaningful image that makes a statement worthy of its lofty site, that also speaks to the hearts of America’s present and future generations. To address that Challenge, a plethora of design/build, legal, financial, and political logistics come into play. Louisiana born, Dr. James A. Chaffers, DArch, FAIA, NCARB, is one that knows the weight of such a task. Working on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial was a complex, but rewarding effort... touched and handled by every necessary artistic and regulatory effect along the way.

Dr. Chaffers was handpicked as a key MLK memorial design committee member along with other prestigious art, architecture, and museum experts. Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr. D.Arch., Executive Architect with the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. had witnessed Dr. Chaffers’ significant knowledge, skills, and talents in the classroom, working in community building endeavors, and working with people from various professions and interest over the years. It was subsidized early, and later proved his unique manner and insight would be crucial in the success of satisfying the process requirements throughout the entire journey.



The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall Washington DC

James Alvin Chaffer was born and raised in Ruston, Louisiana. He earned his undergraduate degree in architecture from Southern University in Baton Rouge. He received the nation’s first Doctorate degree in Architecture from the University of Michigan where he has been a professor since 1973. He was elevated to the “College of Fellows” of the American Institute of Architect/FAIA in 2007 and is licensed in Louisiana and Michigan. He is the celebrated recipient of numerous distinguished awards for innovative professional/academic accomplishments both nationally and abroad in art, architecture, and urban development.

As for the MLK memorial, it was the desires of Coretta Scott King,

and the mission of the design committee that it be, “No Monument to Martin,” in that a monument typically honors a person. It is a “living memorial that commemorates the ever-presence of Dr. King.” To Quote Dr. Chaffers, “The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial was envisioned, designed, and built, to honor four of our nation’s most cherished values: Justice, Freedom, Opportunity, and Love (beyond kinship). The Memorial is a ‘visual-spiritual oasis of expanding ‘family’ circles; ‘family’ woven around opportunities for education, celebration, and contemplation.” The consensus was that it should be metaphysical both as an intellectual and physical

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BAKER from page 1

manuscripts. Family learning options such as virtual tours on sites such as the National Parks Travel Places of the Civil Rights Movement (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov) or African American Civil Rights Network - Civil Rights (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov) are also available.

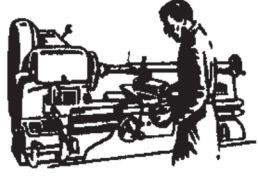
The City of Baker invites everyone to join with us in the tradition of honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; the virtual event will feature guest speaker East Baton Rouge Metro Council Woman Ms. Chauna Banks, City of Baker School System students reading Dr King’s “I Have a Dream” speech and other local leaders.

The event can be accessed via zoom at the City of Baker website link: <https://cityofbakerla.com/wp/events/city-of-baker-virtual-dr-martin-luther-king-event/>

Councilwoman Banks, is a native of Baton Rouge, who graduated from Southern University Laboratory High School and Southern University with a Master’s degree in Education, Leadership, and Counseling. She is currently serving her third term as the representative of Council District 2 which includes the majority of Alsen, Baker, Beechwood, Brownsfield, Scotlandville and the area North of Hooper Road to the Comite River.

The City of Baker is pleased to have her deliver the keynote address at this event. Mayor Waites commented, “Councilwoman Banks is an inspirational leader and tireless advocate for the people. She strives every day to embody what Dr. King meant when he said, “Not everybody can be famous, but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. I am grateful to know her and have her friendship.” He added, “We are so glad to be able to offer this virtual program which can reach so many more people and look forward to the time when we’re able to safely merge virtual events with in-person attendance. It is vital in our efforts to serve our community that we are able to communicate broadly, because as Dr. King said, “We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.”. We are using every tool at our disposal to move our community forward. Empowering our youth’s voices in this program and sharing messages of encouragement and perseverance from community leaders are key components of creating an environment conducive to progress.”

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us

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Newspaper is published weekly in Baton Rouge and distributed every Thursday with a circulation of 7,500. Subscription rates are \$65.00 per year for Louisiana residents; \$72.00 for one year for out-of-state residents; half price for six months subscription; and \$1.00 per single copy.

All money orders or checks should be made payable to The Baton Rouge Weekly Press 4910 Montecello Blvd., Suite C Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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THIS MONTH

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FIRST FREE SUNDAYS

Magnolia Mound
Jan. 2 | 1 p.m. + 2 p.m. + 3 p.m.

CRAFT CORNER AT THE SWAMP

Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
Jan. 7 + 8 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

TEEN POP-UP & UNPLUG

Greenwood Community Park
Jan. 8 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

SWAMP ART SOIRÉE

Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
Jan. 13 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING STUDIO:

FISH AND CHIPS
Milton J. Womack Park
Jan. 15 | 10:30 a.m.-noon

MLK YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLINIC

Greenwood Community Park Tennis Center
Jan. 17 | 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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CAMP-IN'

Lovett Road Park + Zachary Community Park
Jan. 17

ARCHERY 101

Milton J. Womack Park
Jan. 19 | 6-7:30 p.m.

SUNSHINE SOCIAL: IT'S ALL ABOUT HATS

Jefferson Highway Park Ballroom
Jan. 21 | 6-9 p.m.

COMITE RIVER RUN

Comite River Park
Jan. 22 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

ADULT ATHLETIC LEAGUES

Registration open Jan. 1-31

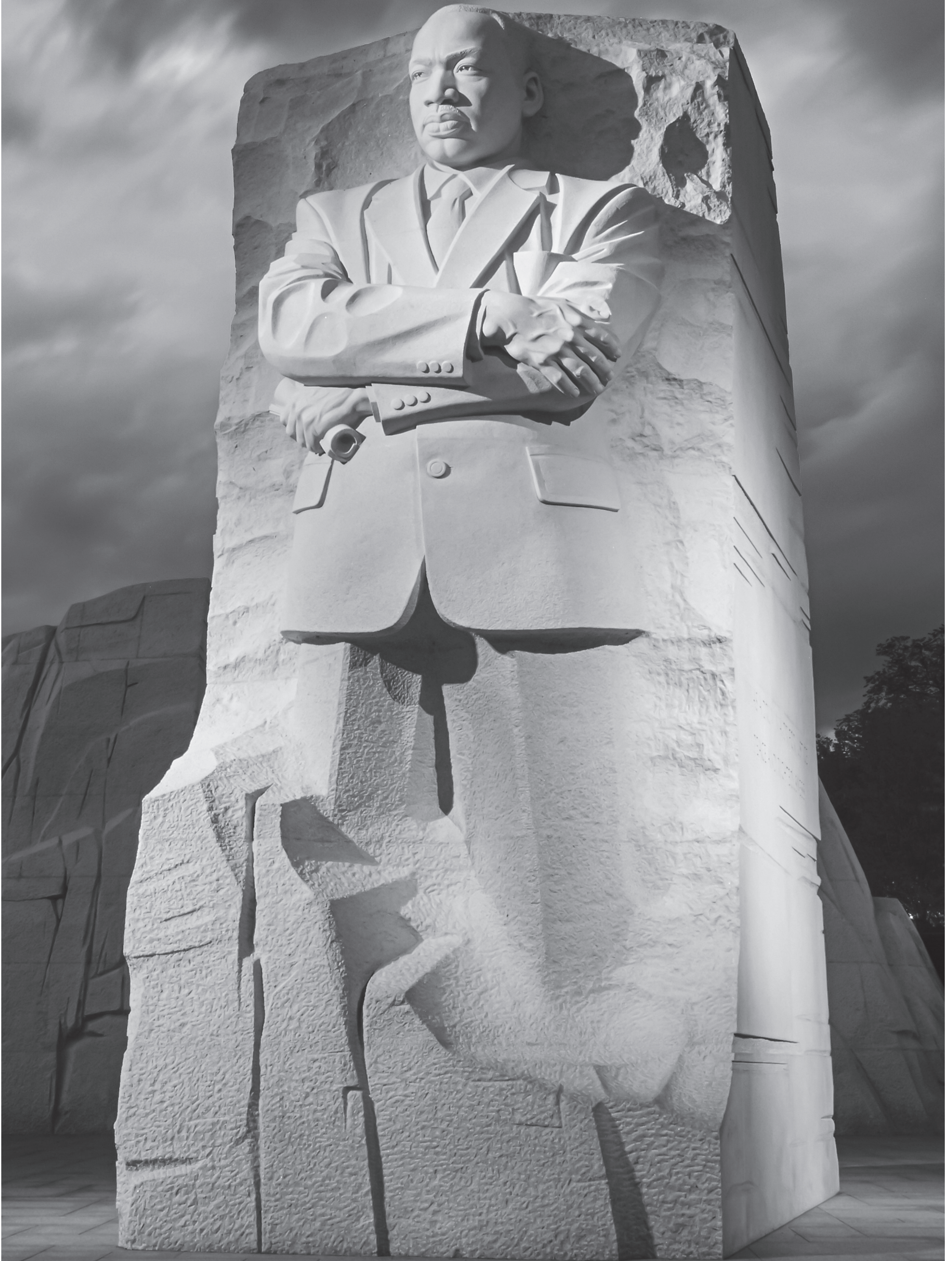


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REMEMBER THE DREAM

In memory and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



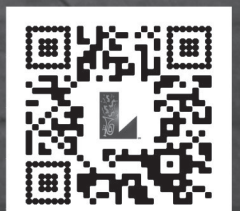
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RELIGION

The truth that saves lives

By Creflo Dollar
World Changers Church

Have you ever been confused about something until someone clearly explained the matter in a way that you understood? You most likely remember feeling like a curtain was drawn back that let in the light of understanding. We live in a confused world that has more questions than answers about what is, and what isn't, true. Specifically, knowing the truth about Jesus Christ can radically affect how we live. However, it won't have any impact on us unless we choose to accept by faith what we hear.



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This is because God made us all free moral agents, able to make our own decisions. Our choices can either empower us to fail or succeed in our daily lives. On a grander scale, they can either position us to enter



into eternal life with Jesus after we die or block us from it.

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply; and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it... I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life,

that both thou and thy seed may live (Deuteronomy 30:15, 16, 19).

Knowing the truth about something has a way of setting us free from constantly wondering. Before Jesus came, the truth then was that sin separated mankind from God and kept us out of heaven. The truth now is that Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection opened the doors of heaven for those of us who believe it. "This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began" (Titus 1:2, NLT). Believing this moves us

from death to life.

Before the cross, the people had to constantly make atonement for, and be aware of, sin. God was angry and vengeful, and the people lived in fear of being put to death for breaking any of the Jewish laws. After the cross, sin was no longer an issue; Jesus had permanently atoned for the sins of the world and borne God's wrath so that we could live life the way it was originally intended. God is no longer angry with us. "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17 NIV).

What was true in the Old Testament may no longer be true in the New Testament. If we only know about God without directly knowing Him through a close, personal relationship with Him, we'll run from Him. This may be because we've been taught wrong by religion based on Old-Testament thinking. Studying the Scriptures through the lens of grace instead of the law gives us a different perspective of God's

See **TRUTH**, on page 5

Purpose, timing in its season

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. — Deuteronomy 10:14

By Mary Wells
Excerpt from *As My Soul Soars*

As seen in Genesis, chapters 1 thru 3, all existence is of God for His purpose (Deuteronomy 10:14). His purpose defines the reason for existence. Purpose is accomplished in the timing of its season. And all things created comes forth in the fullness of time in its assigned season (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). The very reason for "being" comes forth in the timing of its season. What is meant to be, even if it appears to have been forgotten, will be completed at the appointed time, and no timing is without the setting of season. No season can exist without the God given assignment of purpose.

Life is a long journey, no matter when we enter it, or when we leave it. It has various places of happening and circumstance along the way, but all have a purpose, a

season, and a time. Season is the overall era of potential, possibility, and occurrence for scheduled happenings. It is manifested from immediate circumstances that are right, and in-line with its preordained purpose. Facilitation for completion exists in the era of its season. The accommodations for success are provided in its season. Being in season means that everything needed is ready, because God's purpose will be fulfilled, and he cannot fail. There is nothing lacking in the season of God's purpose. When plans and intentions go awry, it may be due to the absents of God's purpose, season, and timing.

Timing refers to "when" things are supposed to be. It is order, and it always comes in its season. Timing brings situations and circumstances in position for happening across all dimensional levels. Timing in season allows the emergence of prosperity because of being aligned with the will of God, and His purpose. God has made everything beautiful in the timing of its season, (Ecclesiastes 3:4) and only God knows all. So, fulfillment of His purpose has a scheduled timing which is governed by the season of His intention. In the fullness of time, all things are rich and blessed. How beautiful to give the right answer in the right time, or to see things coming into being when they are ready to be. There is peace and confidence in being in right order. Right timing creates a positive flow and assurance of great benefit.



Mary Wells

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Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. - Hebrews 10:25



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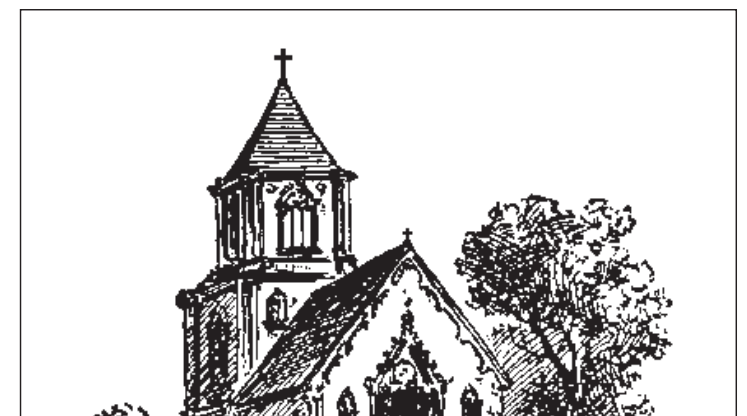
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Contemporary Worship 2nd & 5th Sunday 8:00 a.m.
(And any Sunday that falls on a Holiday)
Bible Study Wednesday, Men's Mid-Day Study 12:00 p.m.
Disciple Bible Study Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
Prayer Ministry Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

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Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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Websites: www.newhopebr.com

Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 AM
Lord's Supper 3rd Sundays
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Prayer Service Wed. @ 6:00 PM
Bible Study Wed. @ 7:00 PM

Mission Statement: New Hope Baptist Church is a family of baptized believers who worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, teach the saved to reach the lost and minister to the needs of others, while encouraging one another through acts of love and living in obedience to Gods Word

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BUSINESS

Louisiana Business Operations, Customer Service Jobs Featured At Virtual Career Fair

LED FastStart event will connect prospects with employers in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Covington and Bossier City

BATON ROUGE, La. – Registration is now open for an LED FastStart virtual career fair that will connect job seekers in and outside the state with Louisiana companies filling a wide range of business operations and customer service positions. The online event will take place Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free, and participants can register in advance or at the start of the event.

Business operations encompasses a wide range of roles, including human resources, accounting/finance,



account management, marketing, operations, project management, business development and administrative assistance. Customer services roles include a similarly broad spectrum of

jobs whose primary responsibility is interacting with the public in-person, online and/or by phone.

Six companies from across the state have committed to participate in the career fair to date:

- Calls Plus, Lafayette
- Click Here Digital, Baton Rouge

- GDIT, Bossier City
- Netchex, Covington
- Premier Health, Baton Rouge
- SCI, New Orleans

Using the Brazen virtual events platform, job seekers will have the opportunity to explore the employers' virtual booths, research the companies and see the opportunities for which they are best suited. Registrants also can participate in one-on-one text-based chats with company representatives.

"The competition for skilled workers who can help Louisiana businesses grow has never been more fierce," said LED FastStart Executive Director Paul Helton. "This business operations and customer service virtual career fair is another example of how LED FastStart is using the latest technology to connect the best prospects with the right opportunities at our partner companies."

Since the digital LED FastStart Recruiting platform was launched in October 2020, nearly 1,200 prospects have participated in 14 virtual

See **FAIR**, on page 6

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ARCHITECT from page 2

experience. The "Stone of Hope" and the "Wall of Quotes" placed on the Washington DC Cherry Blossom Promenade create the ambiance for the intended experience.

Of his many awards and opportunities, his role with the MLK Memorial is the most memorable to date. To quote Dr. Chaffers, "The most amazing slice of my MLK experience was witnessing the unanimous congressional ratification of President Clinton's "Presidential Endorsement". 100 United States Senators voted Yay (yes). There were subsequent major

battles, mostly bureaucratic resistance to the unprecedented placing of a "non-President" memorial on the National Mall; but Presidential and Senate backing ruled the day." It was a phenomenal undertaking.

Details and pictures were given and/or granted approval directly from Dr. Chaffers.

The "Stone of Hope" photo was taken from the book

SPACE/Spirit; SPIRIT/Space, (c) 2021 by James A. Chaffers

BROOME from page 1

ship, collaboration, progress, and service."

Businesses, community organizations, and residents can engage in the celebration through sponsorship, donations, and volunteering for service events. Sponsorships and donations will support service projects throughout East Baton Rouge Parish.

Current sponsors for MLK Holiday BR 2022 include Coca-Cola, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, L'auberge Casino Hotel, Healthy Blue, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana. Potential sponsors and donors are encouraged to visit mlkholidaybr.com/sponsor.

Residents can find service opportunities and the schedule of events at mlkholidaybr.com. All residents are encouraged to join the City-Parish and its partners for service and celebration.

TRUTH from page 4

love as expressed through His Son. "And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15, NIV).

The truth is that God loves us very much. He dearly wants to gather us in His arms and hold us close. Whether or not we accept that love is up to us.

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The Weekly Press

How the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday became a holiday

The fight to make the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday a holiday took 32 years, a lot of campaigning, and guest appearances including Stevie Wonder, Ted Kennedy, and the National Football League.

751px-Photograph_of_President_Reagan_and_the_Signing_Ceremony_for_Martin_Luther_King_Holiday_Legislation

King's birthday was finally approved as a federal holiday in 1983, and all 50 states made it a state government holiday by 2000.

Officially, King was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta. But the King holiday is marked every year on the third Monday in January.

The King Center in Atlanta has a detailed chronology of how the efforts, starting shortly after King's death in 1968, paid off in the long run. It wasn't an easy task for holiday supporters, who had to push hard in Congress to get the federal holiday created.

A second battle took place to get individual states to also recognize the holiday, with often emotional disagreements in two states.

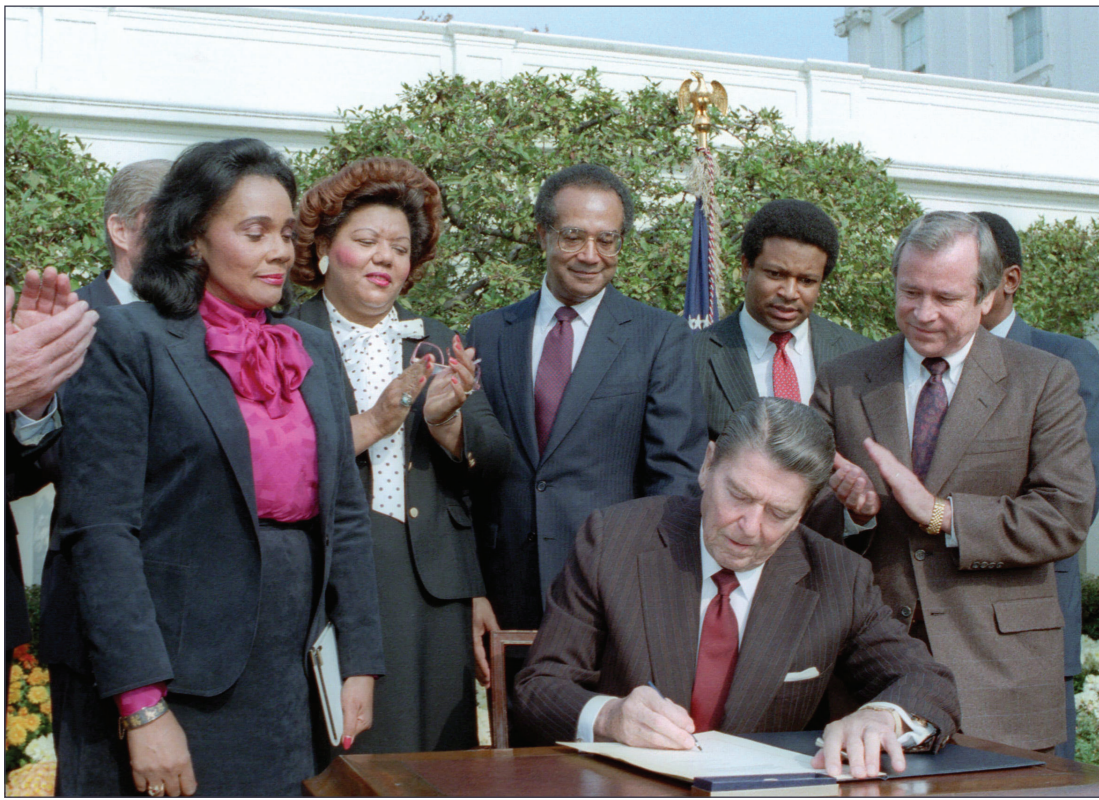
Today, the King holiday serves multiple purposes: It honors the total legacy of King; focuses on the issue of civil rights; highlights the use of nonviolence to promote change; and calls people into public service.

The struggle to get the holiday recognized reflects all these topics, along with some interesting twists and turns along the way.

Representative John Conyers introduced the first motion to make King's birthday a federal holiday in 1968, just four days after King's assassination in Memphis. It took another 11 years to the federal holiday to come up for a vote on the House of Representative's floor in 1979.

The bill needed a two-thirds majority to pass, but it fell five votes short with a 252-133 count, despite a strong organizational effort from the King Center, and support from Congress members and President Jimmy Carter.

The holiday's supporters regrouped and intensified their efforts. Musician Stevie Wonder helped in



President Ronald Reagan at Signing Ceremony for Martin Luther King Holiday Legislation in the Rose Garden with Coretta Scott King, George Bush, Howard Baker, Bob Dole, Jack Kemp, Samuel Pierce, Katie Hall Looking on, 11/2/1983

1981 by releasing the song "Happy Birthday" to promote the holiday. (He would later sing it at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial dedication in 2011.)

The King Center kept up its efforts. It organized a march on Washington that included an estimated 500,000 people. Coretta Scott King, along with Wonder, presented a petition signed by 6 million people to House leader Tip O'Neill.

The House took up the bill in 1983 and it passed by 53 votes. Democrats O'Neill and Jim Wright, along with Republicans Jack Kemp and Newt Gingrich, gave speeches supporting the King holiday.

But getting the bill passed in the Senate would be contentious. Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina openly opposed it. At first, Helms introduced a filibuster, and then he presented a 400-page file that accused King of being a com-

munist. Senator Ted Kennedy criticized Helms and Senator Daniel Moynihan called the document "filth" and threw it on the Senate floor.

Despite Helms, the bill passed the Senate by 12 votes—even South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond voted in favor of the King holiday.

President Ronald Reagan signed the bill in November 1983. The first federal King holiday was celebrated in 1986.

It took longer for the 50 states to adopt the holiday. By 1986, 17 states had already adopted it. But there was strong resistance in Arizona to passing a state holiday.

The fight between state legislators came to a head when the King holiday was put up for an Arizona voter referendum in November 1990.

At that point, entertainers had started boycotting the state in

protest, and the National Football League threatened to move the 1993 Super Bowl from Tempe if the holiday was defeated at the polls.

The King holiday lost in a two-part voter referendum and the NFL made good on its threat, taking the Super Bowl to Southern California and costing the state an estimated \$500 million in revenue.

Arizona voters approved the King holiday two years later.

There was also a fight in South Carolina over the holiday. It was one of the last states to approve a paid King holiday for state employees in 2000.

The state's governor had tried to link the holiday to a commitment to allow the state house to fly the Confederate battle flag. Instead, he signed a bill that approved the King holiday along with a Confederate Memorial Day celebrated in May.

FAIR from page 5

career fairs for multiple businesses or individual companies. The fairs have covered a range of industries, from digital/tech to manufacturing. This is the first such event for business operations and customer service positions. Similar events

showcasing other job sectors will be scheduled throughout the year. To receive email notifications about future career fairs, opt-in here.

To register, visit the Brazen registration page. For more information, contact LED FastStart Recruitment Director Jamie Nakamoto at Jamie.Nakamoto@la.gov or 225.342.1575.

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