OMNI MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY, JANUARY 21, 2013. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace.

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2013: March, Vigil, Banquet Highlight Martin Luther King Day for Campus and Community

Other events planned before, during and after holiday

Wednesday, January 09, 2013

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – A commemorative march will be held in Fayetteville followed by a memorial vigil on the University of Arkansas campus to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 21. The 17th annual Community Recommitment Banquet will be held that evening. Several other events are also planned as part of the Northwest Arkansas celebration of the national holiday that honors the life and legacy of King. These events have been organized by the Northwest Arkansas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Council and the University of Arkansas MLK Committee.

The theme for this year’s events is “Service to Many Leads to Greatness.”

The MLK Day march will begin at 11:15 a.m., leaving from the Walton Arts Center parking lot and ending at the Verizon Ballroom in the Arkansas Union on the Fayetteville campus. Before the march city officials will hold a brief ceremony announcing the winner of the Martin Luther King Jr. Brotherhood Award, which goes to a Fayetteville city employee who exhibits the qualities exemplified by King.

The vigil will begin at noon in the Verizon Ballroom. It is organized and sponsored by the Associated Student Government to promote King’s ideas and ideals. Calvin White Jr., U of A assistant professor of history and director of African and African American studies, will be the keynote speaker. The U of A Inspirational Singers will perform during the vigil.

University Libraries Special Collections will have a table set up outside the ballroom, with information
about King, African American history and the libraries’ Daisy Bates and Geleve Grice collections.

The MLK Day march and vigil are free and open to the public.

The Community Recommitment Banquet, sponsored by the NWA MLK Council, will be at 7 p.m. in the Fayetteville Town Center. Speakers will include Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan; Karen Armstrong, vice president of diversity and leadership development, Tyson Foods Inc.; Pastor Marcus Carruthers, The Dwelling Place, Fayetteville; and Sharon Orloff, global chief diversity officer and senior vice president, Walmart Stores Inc.

The council will award 25 scholarships to high school, undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, five individual awards will be presented: Kemmian Johnson will receive the Rodney Moman Youth Award; Al “Papa Rap” Lopez will be presented the Ernestine White-Gibson Individual Achievement Award; the Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to University of Arkansas Chancellor G. David Gearhart; Louis Bryant will be honored with the Rev. J.A. Hawkins Sr. Posthumous Award; and the U of A Office of University Relations will be named the Organization of the Year.

Tickets for the Community Recommitment Banquet are $25 for adults and $15 for students, and are available at [http://www.nwamlk.org](http://www.nwamlk.org).

Several other events are planned around the holiday, beginning with a Day of Service starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19. Volunteers from the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will perform community service at the Salvation Army in Fayetteville. Other community members are encouraged to find local non-profit agencies in need of volunteer help for their projects.

A memorial service offering a time to reflect on King’s message will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at the St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 764 W. North Street in Fayetteville.

These events are both sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the NWA MLK Council.

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday will begin with two events for young people on the U of A campus. The annual Dream Keepers Youth Prayer Breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House, 491 N. Razorback Road, Fayetteville. More information is available at 479-435-1393. The breakfast will be followed at 9:30 a.m. by a series of youth games and athletic activities at the university Health, Physical Education Recreation Building. The NWA MLK Planning Committee, University of Arkansas Intramural Sports and Razorback Athletics are sponsoring these activities.

The final event, the MLK Day of Service, will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 22 in the Connections Lounge of the Arkansas Union. Local nonprofit agencies including the NWA chapter of the Red Cross, the NWA Children’s Shelter, Life Styles Inc., the Boys and Girls Club, the Full Circle Campus Food Pantry, the Belize Project and the Volunteer Action Center Literacy Program will have tables and projects set up in the lounge. Students will have a chance to work on projects for each agency, and will receive a T-shirt after completing their projects. The MLK Day of Service is sponsored by the university’s Volunteer Action Committee and MLK Committee.

Keywords: Diversity & Multiculturalism Entertainment & Cultural Events Events Outreach

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MLK National Monument Inspires

Amy Goodman, Video Report: “This week, the public got its first look at a newly unveiled memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., that honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is the first memorial on the National Mall not dedicated to a war, president or white man. The threat of Hurricane Irene has forced organizers to postpone the planned dedication of memorial on Sunday, which was to have been attended by 250,000 people, including President Barack Obama. The dedication ceremony was to have taken place on the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, when Dr. King gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Despite the storm, a related Rally for Jobs and Justice will proceed tomorrow, ending with a march to the King Memorial.”

LESSON PLAN: War for Democracy? Democracy at Home?

**COMPARE King’s 1967 speech at NYC’s Riverside Church with USA 2000-invasions and empire.**

I. The Speech against US wars and linking anti-democratic racism at home with the VN War. Young black men who were fighting in Vietnam hadn’t had democracy at home when they left and wouldn’t have it when they returned.

List the anti-democratic realities of USA 1960s.

II. The pattern is repeated for the US’s Middle Eastern Wars. The troops go to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq for “freedom” and democracy, but they had plutocracy when they left and will have it when they return.

List anti-democratic realities of USA 2000s.
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., US WARS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

His evolution and eventual unified vision: It became clear that the right to sit next to whites at a lunch counter was useless without the funds for a meal, and the funds would never be available to the poor so long as the nation’s leaders squandered money and resources in illegal and immoral wars. See *Peacework* (April 2008). (D).

DICK’S ANALYSIS OF GOV. BEEBE’S MLKJR DAY SPEECH 2010

Governor Beebe’s talk about King on Jan. 18, as reported in *ADG* Jan. 19 must have created a shudder among our collective critical brains. Distraction: Turning the course of a discussion or an argument away from the point at issue. Oversimplification: Excluding relevant considerations from an argument. Yes, King was eloquent, but his substance more than his rhetoric gave him greatness. His beliefs were the relevant issue. King had three main objections to our country, all focused on injustice and violence—racism and especially Jim Crow laws in the South, the cruel economic system which created the gap between rich and poor, and the horrendous, indiscriminate violence of our wars. Did Beebe not know this, when he decided to present a lecture to children “not to squander the gifts of God.” The greatness of King was his challenge to our nation through these three messages, which the governor erases in platitudes. Had the governor never read King’s speeches, did he not know the evolution and final unity of King’s life, when he said that "King's message of nonviolence 'softened white America's heart.'"? Had he not read King's April 4, 1967 speech at NYC's Riverside Church that denounced the hardness of the leaders and people of the United States who continued to slaughter the Vietnamese? Was he ignorant, or did he deliberately dilute the actual King, avoiding King’s arguments, a familiar practice.

The day before Governor Beebe’s speech, St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville had Reggie Perry Sr. deliver the keynote speech at a commemorative service for King. Perry, the director of sales for Nokia Siemens Network, “spoke about the need to live King’s dream through service to others.”

He quotes from King's "I Have a Dream" speech, his early, great 1963 speech against racial bigotry. But he says nothing about **King's anti-war and anti-poverty speeches**, the latter presented in 1968 the day before he was assassinated. Yes, this country has accepted, partly, King's crusade against racism; the legal apartheid of the old South is gone; the nation's heart has softened there. But the older King of 1967 and ‘68, the King compassionate for the victims of US military invasions and occupations and for the poor, homeless, underpaid victims of the unjust economic system, has not been accepted by the leaders and people, as the governor and Mr. Perry illustrate.

The King of 1967-1968 had reached his full vision of what the nation might become. It had become clear to King before he was murdered that the right to sit next to whites at a lunch counter was useless without the funds for a meal, and the funds would never be available to the poor so long as the nation’s leaders squandered money and resources in illegal and immoral wars. If we were ever to achieve a nation of nonviolence and love, the institutions of racism, poverty, and war had to be removed. United States injustice and violence and their replacement by justice, nonviolence, and love are the relevant issues on Martin Luther King Jr. Day; that is what King argued eloquently in his last speeches; but through distraction and simplification, or just ignorance, our governor talks about God. Dick
An unprecedented and timely collection of King's speeches on labor rights and economic justice

People forget that Dr. King was every bit as committed to economic justice as he was to ending racial segregation. He fought throughout his life to connect the labor and civil rights movements, envisioning them as twin pillars for social reform. As we struggle with massive unemployment, a staggering racial wealth gap, and the near collapse of a financial system that puts profits before people, King's prophetic writings and speeches underscore his relevance for today. They help us imagine King anew: as a human rights leader whose commitment to unions and an end to poverty was a crucial part of his civil rights agenda.

Covering all the civil rights movement highlights-Montgomery, Albany, Birmingham, Selma, Chicago, and Memphis-award-winning historian Michael K. Honey introduces and traces King's dream of economic equality. Gathered in one volume for the first time, the majority of these speeches will be new to most readers. The collection begins with King's lectures to unions in the 1960s and includes his addresses during his Poor People's Campaign, culminating with his momentous "Mountaintop" speech, delivered in support of striking black sanitation workers in Memphis. Unprecedented and timely, "All Labor Has Dignity" will more fully restore our understanding of King's lasting vision of economic justice, bringing his demand for equality right into the present.

In the Media
Listen to interview with Honey on KPFK's "Sojourner Truth"

Read an article by Honey in Colorlines
Read an interview with Honey in The Atlantic
Remembering King in 2010

Written by Executive Director, Michael McPhearson, Veterans for Peace

As our nation celebrates the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the most influential figures of the 20th century, it is important to remember the breadth and depth of his the message and vision. In the era of the first Black President, it would be easy to say King's dream has been fulfilled and now it is time to move on to new challenges. But this is a misreading of current events and his words.

In his 1967 Riverside Church speech, Beyond Vietnam: Time to Break Silence, Dr. King talked about three major demons; racism, materialism and militarism.[i] Today these triplets continue to haunt us. In fact they have become more entrenched. In the speech, King spoke of youth challenging his disapproval of their use of violence when the U.S. was "...using massive doses of violence..."[ii] in Vietnam. He called our government, "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." This continues to be true as our nation is conducting global military operations and occupying two countries with eyes on one or two others. The U.S. is the largest weapons exporter in the world and has the largest military budget, nearly outpacing all other nations combined.

Racism continues to distort the promise of America as people of color have the highest unemployment rates and are blocked from access to resources and opportunity. Speculation and greed caused by rampant materialism has ravaged our economy, devastating the lives of millions, hitting working class and poor people especially hard. The economic and social currents created by the triplets flow together and work hand in hand to divert resources to war for profit's sake and empire building rather than investing in healthcare, education, jobs, housing and other human needs that would uplift the poor and help change the insidious legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.

Perhaps Dr. King's most prophetic words come from this speech when he warned, "The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit," and if we ignore this sobering reality we will find ourselves organizing clergy- and laymen-concerned committees for the next generation.[iii]

We find ourselves today as the clergy and laypersons organizing in our generation. As we remember Dr. King we must applaud how far we have come. We must also reflect on how far we have yet to go, and challenge others to see Dr. King's full vision of a just and peaceful world. He called for a true
revolution of values that will cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies and see that using war to settle our differences is not just. He called on America to lead this revolution of values.

"There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war."[iv]

Dr. King wisely saw then what is still true today, that the world's only hope "...lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism."[v]

This is how we ensure international security. This is how we stop nuclear proliferation and reverse global warming.

This January 18th remember Dr. King by proclaiming his full message. Do not stand by while it is watered down to make us all feel good. Celebrate the journey we have taken, but remind everyone how far we have to go. Will our nation take up the challenge? As Dr. King said, "The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history."[vi]

VETERANS WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE.
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www.veteransforpeace.org

KING ASSASSINATED?

1. Amazon.com: An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King ...
www.amazon.com › ... › People, AZ › ( K ) › King, Martin Luther
An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King [William F. Pepper] on. The definitive ...

2. William F. Pepper
actofstate.org/
Dec 30, 2008 – Host of Air America's Clout, Richard Greene, bravely hosts the author of An Act of State, William Pepper, who represented James Earl Ray on ...

3. William Francis Pepper - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Francis_Pepper

www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/WFP020403.html
Feb 4, 2003 – The following is a hypertext transcript of William Pepper speaking on the release of his new book, An Act of State - The Execution of Martin ...
END MLKJR NEWSLETTER #1

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