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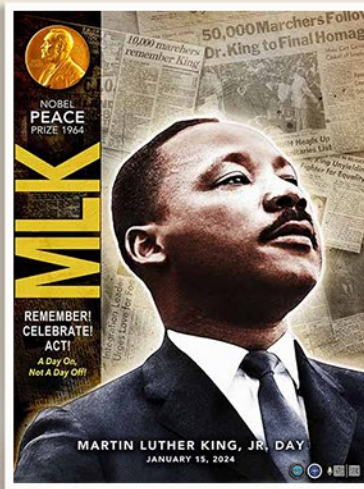
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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
January 15th



Each year, on the third Monday in January, the Department of Defense (DoD) stands with the Nation in honoring the life and enduring influence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King is celebrated as a champion of nonviolence in America and as a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday (MLK Day) as a National Day of Service. All Americans are encouraged to volunteer to improve their communities.

This year holds particular significance as it marks the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

At the age of 35, King became the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his commitment to nonviolent methods during the Civil Rights Movement.

Gunnar Jahn, the chairman of the Nobel committee, stated King was *“the first person in the Western world to have shown us that a struggle can be waged without violence. He is the first to make the message of brotherly love a reality in the course of his struggle, and he has brought this message to all men, to all nations and races.”*

In his Nobel acceptance speech, King pondered the contradiction that he would be given a prize to honor peace regarding a movement filled with much violence, oppression, and injustice toward people.

He concluded that nonviolence is in fact the answer by explaining, *“I conclude that this award, which I receive on behalf of that movement, is a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time—the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression.”*

King demonstrated his unwavering dedication to the Civil Rights Movement by donating the entirety of his Nobel Peace Prize award money.

Just 4 years after receiving the Nobel Prize, King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room on the evening of April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Defense Department recognizes that freedom, equality, and inclusion are true force multipliers and imperative to the national defense and our Nation’s strength.

King recognized the power of service. Observing MLK Day through service continues the DoD’s mission of promoting change and building communities.

The men and women of the DoD honor King by living up to the standard he set. Together we safeguard his legacy and, as one DoD family, rise to meet today’s challenges.

