

KING WEEK CELEBRATION 2025

January 15th - 20th



BEYOND THE DREAM: EMPOWERING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

MLK
COMMEMORATIVE
COMMISSION

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION
P.O. Box 155, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901-0155 www.MLKKnoxville.com

THE GREATER KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY
 CELEBRATES THE 96TH BIRTHDAY
 AND THE
 43RD ANNUAL KING WEEK FOR
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



*“Beyond the Dream, Empowering
 the Beloved Community”*

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION
Friday, January 3	5:00-9:00 PM	GALLERY OF ARTS TRIBUTE Emporium Center/Arts and Culture Alliance
Wednesday, January 15	12:00-1:00 PM	INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE Church Street United Methodist Church
Thursday, January 16	8:30 AM 12 NOON	LEADERSHIP EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM Thomas “Tank” Strickland Leadership Awards Luncheon University of Tennessee Student Union Complex
Friday, January 17	7:00 PM	COMMUNITY FORUM – OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE ALLIANCE The Beck Cultural Center
Saturday, January 18	9:00 AM	YOUTH SYMPOSIUM YOUTH TALENT SHOW Austin-East High School
Sunday, January 19	6:00 PM	NIGHT WITH THE ARTS TRIBUTE MLK CELEBRATION YOUTH CHOIR AND OTHERS Community Evangelistic Church – 2650 Boyds Bridge Pike
Monday, January 20	12:00 NOON	MEMORIAL TRIBUTE SERVICE Overcoming Believer’s Church – Harriet Tubman Street
Saturday, March 29	8:30 AM	TEACHER IN-SERVICE TRAINING The Sarah Simpson Training Facility (KCS)
Thursday, June 19	10:00 AM	Memorial March/Juneteenth Parade – Kick-off Chilhowee Park



Come, they told me
A nonviolent King to see,
The gifts he wanted to bring were love, peace, justice, and harmony.

Come, they told me
A drum major to see,
Against poverty, racism, and inhumane indignity.
For freedom, justice, and opportunity.

Come, they told me
A believer in the Gospel to see,
An advocate for righteousness and equality,
A humanitarian for civil liberties.

We will forever remember your nonviolent faith,
which brought a major transformation
to the United States.

O what a noble plea of lover you cried, if only
we truly begin to abide.
March on, drum major, there, in your rightful standing,
for we are still in the struggle
of your nonviolent demanding.
There is not greater love in which you have given,
To lay down your life for the rights of civil living.

LIVE THE DREAM, LET FREEDOM RING!

Deborah W. Porter



**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION**

2025 MLK AWARD RECIPIENTS

Presented by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission

CHAIR'S AWARD	Chancellor Donde Plowman
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE	Rev. Joe Maddox
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Ms. Marti Baker
ADVOCACY	Ms. Jackie Robinson
EDUCATION	Ms. Rukiya Foster
BUSINESS	Ms. Ty Roberts, Miracle V. Birth
ARTS	Ms. Yvette Rice, YR Productions
DIVERSITY CHAMPION	Mr. Benjamin Bentley
GRAND MARSHAL	Rev. and Mrs. Vincent Jones
YOUTH AWARD	Mr. Javen Carter



2025 Sponsoring Organizations

Platinum

**University of TN - Division of Access and Engagement
City of Knoxville - Community Safety and Empowerment
Lawson Family Foundation**

Gold

**University of Tennessee - Medical Center
Emerald Youth Foundation
Knox County Community Action Committee
Lowery Family Foundation
The William and Mary Foundation - Steve Davis**

Silver

**Canaan Baptist Housing – Rev. Dr. Harold Middlebrook
Diocese of East Tennessee
First Horizon Bank
Home Federal Bank
Home Trust Bank
Knoxville Area Urban League
Knoxville Interdenominational Christian Ministerial Alliance
Knoxville Utilities Board
ORNL Federal Credit Union
Pellissippi State Community College
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Truist Bank
United Way of Greater Knoxville
University of Tennessee System**



2025 Sponsoring Organizations

Bronze

City of Knoxville – Parks and Recreation	Knox County Schools
Denark Construction	East TN Mechanical Contractors
First Bank	Knoxville Family Justice Center
University of TN – Haslam OACC	Knox County District Attorney General
Strata-G LLC	State Representative Sam McKenzie
KCDC	NAACP
MoxCar Marketing and Communications	United Way of Greater Knoxville
University of TN – College of Social Work	University of TN – Multicultural Student Life
University of TN – College of Law	Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
Knox Education Foundation	Knoxville Police Department
Upsilon Chi Chapter – Chi Eta Phi Sorority	McNabb Center
Central Baptist Church	Wesley House Community Center
Knoxville College	Avid and Change Incorporated
Adrian & Larsen Jay	University of TN – Tickle College of Engineering
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church	Austin East High School
East TN Mechanical Contractors	Knoxville Botanical Gardens & Arboretum
New Direction Health Care Solutions	TN Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
County Commissioner Damon Rawls	
Boys and Girls Club of TN Valley	

General

Alpha Xi Chapter Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Conversations of Race
SEED
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Patton Funeral Home
Jarnigan & Son
Bethel AME
Connect Ministries
Lennon-Seney



GALLERY OF ARTS TRIBUTE with

Evelyn Jack & Friends

Friday, January 3rd 5:00p – 9:00p

Join us for the FREE 10th Annual Gallery of Arts Tribute featuring live entertainment by Evelyn Jack and Friends, light refreshments, and a stunning showcase of local art honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.



MLK
COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

www.mlkknnoxville.com

EMPORIUM CENTER
100 S. Gay St. STE 201
Knoxville, TN 37902





Keynote Speaker

Leadership Awards Luncheon Nzinga “Zing” Shaw



Nzinga “Zing” Shaw is the president and CEO of Attack the Glass LLC (ATG), a dynamic organization founded in 2019 with a bold mission to amplify dimensions of diversity across every facet of the human experience. As a seasoned C-suite executive, Zing brings extensive hands-on experience and knowledge spanning DEI, human capital management, change and crisis management, marketing, community engagement and more.

With a background in pioneering DEI work, including as the first Chief DEI Officer at several blue-chip organizations, including Starbucks and the National Basketball Association’s Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena, Zing is known for launching groundbreaking initiatives such as the MOSAIC symposium and spearheading efforts to celebrate the LGBTQ and differently-abled communities in professional sports.

In addition to her role at ATG, Zing serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Haslam College of Business and previously created curriculum and taught at Fisk University. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including multiple “40 Under 40” accolades, and holds positions on several prominent boards, including ColorComm and Rising Media Stars while serving the Board of Trustees at Bennett College. Zing is a member of The Links, Incorporated and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Zing is a proud recipient of two Honorary Doctorate degrees in Humane Letters from LeMoyne Owen College and Morris Brown College, respectively.

Zing holds a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor’s degree from Spelman College, and she is a proud recipient of two Honorary Doctorate degrees in Humane Letters from LeMoyne Owen College and Morris Brown College, respectively. When she’s not driving change in the corporate world, Zing enjoys interior design, international travel, and spending time with her husband Keith and three children, Lacy, Hudson, and Trey.



INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Commission
BEYOND THE DREAM: EMPOWERING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY
Church Street United Methodist Church
900 Henley Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

Reverend Catherine Nance--Presiding

January 15, 2025
12:00 Noon

Welcome.....**Reverend Catherine Nance**
Senior Pastor of Church Street United Methodist Church

Invocation.....**Pastor Randy Tingle**
Fort Sanders Regional Chaplain

Introductions.....**Robin DeHart and Donna Hardy**
MLK Commissioners

Congregational Hymn.....**LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

Song.....**Lillie Madison**
Tabernacle Baptist Church

Reverend Marcia Whyte: Patient Advocate, Fort Sanders Regional

Reverend Dan Martin: Rocky Springs Church, Madisonville

Reverend Janice Crawford: Mount Olive Baptist East

Reverend Alvin Gwatney: Wallace Chapel AME Zion

Rabbi Raina Sirotky: Temple Beth El

Gifts and Offerings.....**Pastor Randy Tingle**
MLK Commissioners: Ann Dingus, Donna Hardy, Mary Henderson

Dramatic Presentation.....**Artece Slay**
Actress, Singer, Writer, Producer

Reverend Mark Moreland: Director of Pastoral Care, Central Baptist Bearden

Khoji Bahrami: Knoxville Bahai Community

Reverend Henry Watson: Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, Oak Ridge

Sabrina Sidiqi: Knoxville Muslim Community

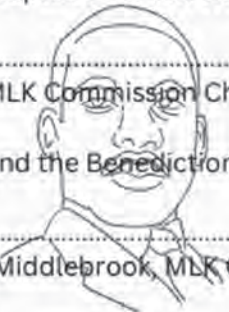
Reverend Walter Henry Cross: Retired Holston Conference Pastor, United Methodist

Dance.....**Nancee Rogers**
Central Baptist Bearden Worship Arts

Closing Remarks.....**Deborah Porter**
MLK Commission Chair

Blessing for the Reception and the Benediction--**Reverend Catherine Nance**

Closing Selection.....**WE SHALL OVERCOME**
Reverend Dr. Harold Middlebrook, MLK Commissioner Emeritus





DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

Leadership Educational Symposium

“Beyond the Dream: Empowering the Beloved Community”

Thursday, January 16, 2025

8:30am – 11:30am

University of Tennessee Student Union, Room 362

Knoxville, Tennessee

8:30am – 9:00am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00am – 9:15am

Invocation – Rev. Gordon Gibson, MLK Commission

Welcome and Introduction of Program - Loretta Fowlkes, Adjunct Maryville College, MLK Commission, and Dr. Maxine T. Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life Emeritus, University of Tennessee, MLK Commission

“A Conversation on Empowering the Beloved Community Post-Election”

9:15am – 11:00am

Moderator and Introduction of Panelists, Denise Dean, Executive Director, East Tennessee Freedom Schools

Panelists: Dr. Nzinga Shaw, President and CEO of Attack the Glass LLC; Ursala Bailey, Attorney, Vice President of Knoxville Area Urban League Board of Directors; Stella Bridgeman, Dean, Pellissippi State Community College Magnolia Campus; Sam McKenzie, Tennessee State Representative District 15; Dante Grayson, UT Knoxville, President Student Government Association; Kalil White, Director of Operations, The Bottom; and Rev. John Mark Wiggers, Rector, St. James Episcopal Church

11:00am – 11:20am

Questions and Answers – Panelists

11:20am – 11:30am

Remarks/Closing – Deborah Porter, Chair, MLK Commission



SECOND ANNUAL

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION THOMAS "TANK" STRICKLAND LEADERSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

"Beyond the Dream, Empowering the Beloved Community"

University of Tennessee, Student Union
Knoxville, Tennessee
Thursday, January 16, 2025
Twelve O'clock Noon

Presiding.....Mrs. Tearsa Smith
WATE TV Morning News Anchor

InvocationDr. Doug Banister
Senior Director of Venture 297, Knoxville Leadership Foundation

Welcome / Occasion.....Dr. Donde Plowman
Chancellor, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

RemarksCounty Commissioner Larsen Jay, At-Large Seat 10
City Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, District 6, Former City Vice Mayor

~ Lunch ~

Presentation of Awards.....Ms. Kim Kearney
Secretary, MLK Commemorative Commission

Recipients:

- Advocacy.....Mrs. Jackie Robinson
- Business.....Ms. Ty Roberts, Mircale V. Birth Services
- Chair's Award.....Dr. Donde Plowman
- Diversity Champion.....Mr. Ben Bentley
- Education.....Ms. Rukiya S. Foster

Music Selection.....Mr. Brian Clay
Creator and Host of Jazzspirations

Introduction of Speaker.....Dr. Russell Crook
Department Head of Management and Entrepreneurship, Haslam College of Business, UTK

Speaker.....Mrs. Nzinga Shaw
President and CEO of Attack the Glass LLC

Closing Remarks.....Mrs. Deborah Porter
Chair, MLK Commemorative Commission

Closing Hymn / Benediction....."We Shall Overcome"
Reverend Dr. Harold Middlebrook
Chair Emeritus, MLK Commemorative Commission



ADVOCACY AWARD

Mrs. Jackie L. Robinson



Jackie Robinson is an enthusiastic and innovative professional with extensive expertise in Workforce Counseling, Job Placement, Public Speaking, Workforce Project Manager, State Contractors, legal expungement advisor, Event Planning, and Management and Community Outreach. I am passionate about helping individuals who need guidance with obtaining services in the community. My primary focus is on individuals with disabilities, legal issues, assistance with Workforce digital training, employment, and community resources. It gives me extraordinary joy to help people to empower themselves with the tools that are required for them to be successful in their endeavors. As a result, that person is empowered to support helping others.

I believe in giving back to the community by volunteering with other non-profits, participating in feeding senior citizens, church outreach ministries, and providing free legal resources. Currently, I participate in the following community organizations: Community Step-Up, in Knoxville, TN., East TN Civil Right Working Group, in Knoxville TN., Tennessee Reentry Collaborative (TREC) East TN Region, Knoxville Area Employment Consortium, and the East Knoxville Lions Club, Knoxville TN.

Since 2001, I have been working as a License Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner and Workforce Development Specialist at the Knoxville Area Urban League (KAUL). Our emphasis is on skill assessments, job readiness training, counseling, resume Development, interviewing skills, job coaching, and Tennessee Higher Education training classes (THEC). KAUL also has partnerships with companies for employment opportunities for individuals.

In 2021, a partnership was developed with the University of Tennessee Law Department and the Knoxville Area Urban League that led to the Workforce Expungement Clinic being established. The first clinic started as a pilot program in March 2021 with 15 individuals and one judge. The event was highly successful. In 2023 I was promoted to the new Expungement Coordinator for my work in developing, organizing, and initiating the Expungement Clinic for Knox County Justice Involved individuals.

This initiative identified a deficiency in the Knoxville community that the Justice Involved population required support in removing barriers in their lives. These barriers prevented them from reaching their maximum potential in their skillsets that could lead them to fulfill their dreams. It was recognized that once the barriers were removed, job opportunities would be increased, business opportunities would become obtainable, home ownership could be achieved, and many other opportunities would become available. Currently, the Workforce Expungement Clinic has served over 450 justice-involved individuals though the clinic fees and charges have been removed. The Workforce Re-entry into Sustainable Employment (RISE) program and has assisted over 180 individuals in the Expungement Clinic to obtain employment.

There are other initiatives that support the Knoxville Area Urban League to help Justice-Involved individuals. The Lions Club Eye Clinic hosts an eye clinic once a year, Cherokee Health Systems schedules Free Medical Insurance clinics throughout the Year, the State of TN Driver License Bus provides new or the renewal of driver licenses and State of TN Identification cards on site. Truist Bank and Regions Bank provide financial education classes monthly focused on rebuilding their credit. Criminal District 6 Court provides workshops held quarterly to assist in reviewing cases for those needing support for child advocacy and case management. There is financial support for driver license reinstatement fees. KAUL is working closely with the Centro Hispano community to recruit the Hispanic population into the Expungement Clinic.

In 2025, the Knox County Voting Commission Precinct and the Knoxville Area Urban League will be partnering together to establish a voting site at the Knoxville Area Urban League. The Knoxville Bar Association and the Access to Justice Committee will offer legal workshops. The Knoxville Mediation Center will provide mediation counseling services. The RISE program will develop a Justice-Involved Task Force.

Daniel L. Ellis, co-chair of the Knoxville Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee describes Ms. Robinson's vital work saying that, "Jackie Robinson is a crucial link in the network of community leadership organizations like the Knoxville Area Urban League and lawyers volunteering their time with coordination and support from the Knoxville Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee."

I remain deeply committed to empowering the Justice-Involved individuals and underserved populations by building pathways to opportunity, equity, and community reintegration.

Mrs. Jackie L. Robinson Knoxville, Tennessee



BUSINESS AWARD

Ms. Ty Roberts



Ty Roberts is the Founder and Owner of Miracle V. Birth Services and the Executive Director of Gennisi Charitable Birth Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering free and low-cost doula support to low-income, underrepresented, and vulnerable communities. Her work focuses on improving Black Maternal Health and reducing birth-related injuries and deaths in her community.

Driven by a desire to address the significant disparities in birth outcomes within the African American community and inspired by her own challenging birth experiences, Ty shifted her career to doula work in 2019. She founded Miracle V. Birth Concierge in memory of her daughter, Miracle Victoria, who was born prematurely in 2000 and passed away five weeks later. This experience highlighted the lack of support and equity in care that black women often face during childbirth, motivating Ty to ensure that no other black woman has to endure such experiences alone.

Ty's role extends beyond advocacy; she is actively involved in providing hands-on care to expectant women, ensuring they have the support and knowledge to advocate for themselves and make informed healthcare decisions. She is a certified ProDoula Labor Doula, postpartum and fertility doula, and placenta encapsulator. Ty is also a board member of Postpartum Support International, a member of the National Black Doula Association, Knox Birth Equity Alliance, and Tennessee Maternal Task Force, and holds CPR certifications for both adults and children through the American Red Cross.

One of her primary goals is to foster partnerships and collaborations with other organizations that share her mission to enhance Black Maternal Health, striving to create a community where every expectant mother receives the care and support she deserves.



CHAIR'S AWARD

Chancellor Donde Plowman



Donde Plowman has served since 2019 as chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the state's flagship land-grant research university. In that time, the university has set new records in student retention and graduation, research, instructional spending, alumni giving, and state support.

UT has a footprint that spans the entire state, including the main campus in Knoxville, the Space Institute in Tullahoma, and the Institute of Agriculture and its Extension offices in all 95 counties. Plowman oversees a campus budget of \$2.2 billion as well as more than 38,800 students, 7,500 staff, and 2,000 full-time faculty.

Shortly after her arrival at UT, Plowman created the Division of Student Success to ensure that students receive a wide range of support as they navigate college life. Since then, the university has seen significant results in retention, persistence, and graduation rates while developing a national reputation as an innovative leader in student success. This improved retention, combined with a boom in new student applications, has allowed the university to strategically grow its enrollment by more than 30 percent, creating more opportunities for more students and producing more skilled graduates ready to enter the workforce.

Under Plowman's leadership, the university has increased its research expenditures to a record \$380 million by shifting its focus from individual efforts to big collaborative projects. This change in emphasis has fueled creative solutions and new technologies as well as expanded innovation and economic development partnerships with companies including AT&T, Eastman, and Volkswagen.

Plowman's role as chancellor includes oversight of Tennessee Athletics, an operation exceeding \$200 million, to which she has provided decisive and timely leadership. In 2020 she was selected by her peers in the Southeastern Conference to represent the SEC as a member of the NCAA Presidential Forum, and in 2023 she was elected vice president of the SEC Executive Committee. Plowman is known across the country as an advocate for student-athletes by supporting their pursuits on and off the field.

Before becoming chancellor, she served as dean of the College of Business and then executive vice chancellor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She was previously a department head at UT. Plowman is a globally recognized organizational scientist whose scholarship includes the topics of leadership, change management, and strategic decision-making.



DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD

Ben Bentley



Ben has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC), the housing and redevelopment agency for the City of Knoxville, since 2017. Through his leadership, KCDC has invested over a half billion dollars in the preservation and new construction of affordable and mixed income housing at its existing public housing sites; joint ventured with the private sector to invest an additional \$200 Million for the construction of new affordable housing in high opportunity areas across Knoxville; and partnered with the City of Knoxville to leverage public incentives and infrastructure investments toward the creation of outstanding, integrated public and private spaces. He has led the KCDC team to champion investment in underserved areas, bringing over \$50 million in non-housing funding to neighborhood infrastructure improvements. On any given day, KCDC provides direct housing support to about twenty thousand residents of Knox County.



EDUCATION AWARD

Ms. Rukiya Foster



Rukiya S. Foster is a native of New Brunswick, New Jersey. After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, and a Master of Science in Secondary Education.

In 2000, she began her career in education with Knox County Schools as a World Language Educator (Spanish). During her 17 years as an exemplary educator, she has held various leadership positions, including TAP (Teacher Advancement Program) Mentor Teacher, World Language Department Chair, and was twice named Teacher of the Year.

Growing up, Rukiya witnessed her parents' love and service to others through their professions: her father was a Dean at Rutgers University, and her mother was a Litigation Attorney. Inspired by their commitment, Rukiya was motivated to help and serve others as an educator. She recognized that the opportunity to shape, encourage, and influence students' lives while being a part of their personal and professional achievements would be a profoundly rewarding experience.

As a firm believer that applied knowledge is power, Rukiya, armed with her faith, and inspired by her love for traveling, sought to provide her students with the same enriching opportunities she had experienced as a child. In 2016, she founded the Austin-East Spanish Travel Club, which provided the opportunity for students to experience Europe firsthand. This inaugural trip for the school and these students would allow them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Barcelona, Madrid, and Paris.

Recognizing the significant financial responsibilities involved, she took her vision to the community. Through donations from businesses, community members, churches, and staff members, as well as conducting fundraising performances, Rukiya and the students were able to make their dreams a reality. Since the inaugural trip was such a success and an inspiration, she provided the opportunity for another cohort of students to travel to Europe in the summer of 2017. Students visited Barcelona, Paris, London, Madrid, Avignon, and Sitges during this trip.

After 17 years in the classroom, Rukiya accepted another challenge in her career, further fostering growth, achievement, and student development. As a result, she was selected as a member of the prestigious Knox County Schools Leadership Academy for the 2017-2018 school year as an Assistant Principal/Leadership Academy Fellow at Powell High School. Upon completing the program, she graduated with an Education Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2018.

Rukiya is currently the Principal of the A.S.C.E.N.D. (Academic Scholars with Career Expectations and Notable Destinations) Freshman Academy at Austin-East Magnet High School, and daily impacts her community and students through her dedication to education and service. Her goal is to inspire, uplift, and cultivate the passions and talents of all students. Her student-first approach, reputation as a dynamic leader and collaborator, innovative thinking, and love for her school community are significant assets to those she serves.

As the A.S.C.E.N.D. Academy Principal, Rukiya has led strategic planning efforts, analyzed and developed solutions and programs to encourage and increase student achievement, and created various programs to equip her students with the skills needed to succeed as lifelong learners. She also composed the name, mission, vision, and guiding principles that define the academy, and led the creation of numerous programs and events aimed at student success.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Rukiya is a sought-after speaker, motivator, and published music artist, who recently released her debut project, Love Like You. She also owns Shani and Sham Handmade Jewelry Company and Shani & Sham Sweets, a dessert company. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, writing, decorating, and songwriting.

Rukiya is committed to following in the footsteps of those who inspired her, as she firmly believes that, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education." -Martin Luther King Jr.



YOU'RE INVITED

MLK Community Forum

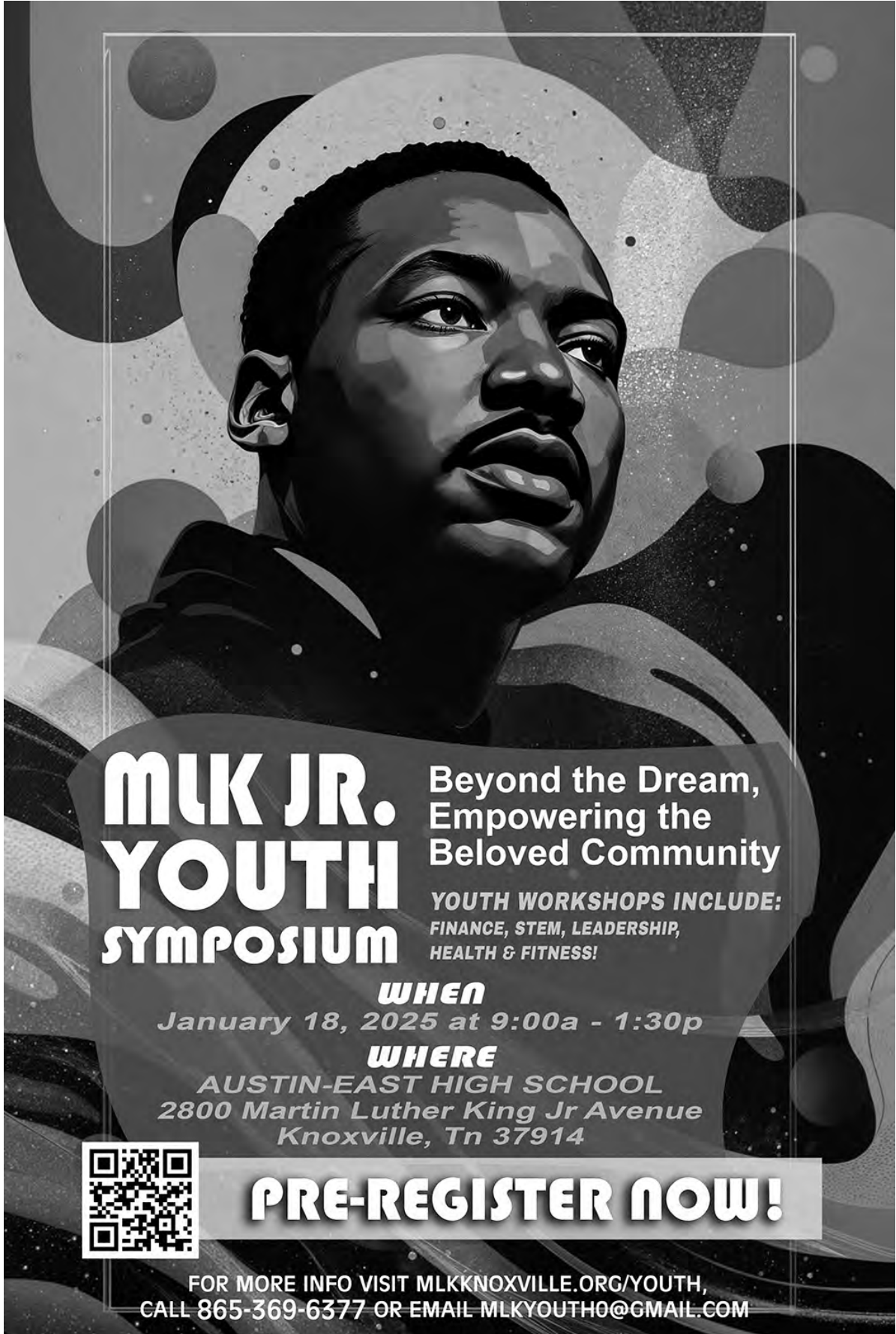
JANUARY 17TH

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Beck Cultural Exchange Center
1927 Dandridge Ave, Knoxville 37915



Join us for an enriching evening at the MLK Community Forum, hosted by **OREPA** at the **Beck Cultural Exchange Center**. This year's forum will spotlight **The Bottom**, offering engaging discussions aimed at strengthening our community ties and celebrating the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



MLK JR. YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

Beyond the Dream,
Empowering the
Beloved Community

YOUTH WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:
FINANCE, STEM, LEADERSHIP,
HEALTH & FITNESS!

WHEN

January 18, 2025 at 9:00a - 1:30p

WHERE

AUSTIN-EAST HIGH SCHOOL
2800 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue
Knoxville, Tn 37914



PRE-REGISTER NOW!

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MLKKNOXVILLE.ORG/YOUTH,
CALL 865-369-6377 OR EMAIL MLKYOUTH0@GMAIL.COM



MLK
COMMEMORATIVE
COMMISSION

A night with
The Arts

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 6pm - 8pm

with performances by

MLK MASS YOUTH CHOIR UNIV OF TN GOSPEL CHOIR
AUSTIN EAST DANCE MINISTRY TABERNACLE DANCE MINISTRY
KNOXVILLE DISTRICT DANCE MINISTRY
LOVE IS THE ANSWER SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS
TUBA SOLOIST CAMERON MCKENZIE

Community Evangelistic Church

2650 Boyds Bridge Pike
Knoxville, TN 37914



ARTS AWARD

Ms. Yvette Rice



Yvette Rice, a Knoxville native, has held many titles including Event Organizer, Party Planner, Fashion Show Producer and Coordinator, and Emcee and Commentator. Her vibrant journey began at West High School, where she was celebrated as Most Wittiest, Most Popular, and Best Dressed while earning her diploma. Inspired to pursue a career in law, Yvette enrolled at Knoxville College, later attending the University of Tennessee and earning an Associate's Degree in Business Law from Pellissippi State Community College. Despite varied career attempts, from working at Robert Shaw to Levi Strauss Company, Yvette's passion for the fashion industry remained unquenched.

Developing an eye for couture fashion from a young age, Yvette was the sixth of seven children born to James Thomas and Mary Jo Rice. Her meticulous sense of style was influenced by her mother and her mother's best friend, Jackie Marshall—a well-known Beautician and "Fashion Queen" of Knoxville—who introduced her to the glamorous world of high fashion at the age of four.

Yvette's fashion career officially launched in 1999 when she attended the Bronner Brothers International Hair Show in Atlanta, Georgia. There, she met top designers Frederico International and Bramer Leon Couture, who became her mentors. That same year, she founded YR Productions and began producing high-energy fashion shows, starting at the Community Evangelistic Church in Knoxville. Her models have since walked runways from Knoxville to major cities such as Atlanta, Miami, and Chicago.

Yvette's portfolio boasts a wide array of events, including Knoxville's Got Talent at the Bijou Theatre, Stein Mart's In-Store Fashion Show, and the Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance events. Her commitment to community shines through in her empowerment of youth, notably through the creation of children's fashion shows and the Pre-Prom Shop Red Carpet Event, which treats high school students to a night of celebrity-like treatment.

Known as "The Heartbeat of Knoxville's Youth," Yvette is celebrated for her contributions, receiving accolades like Atlanta's Outstanding Fashion Model and the 2018 Elite Empire Fashion Icon Award. Her dedication extends beyond the runway as she currently serves as the Marketing Director and Manager of Venue 31, an upscale event center soon to open in East Knoxville, promising a classy environment for high fashion couture events.

Throughout her career, Yvette remains humble, driven by a deep love for the community and a desire to uplift the spirits and dreams of the youth, continually proving that her work is not just about fashion—it's about making a significant difference.



Keynote Speaker

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE SERVICE Rev. Leah Burns



On January 1, 1957, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a speech entitled "Facing the Challenge of a New Age." In that speech given to more than 7000 people gathered on that day, Dr. King spoke of that particular time being one of the momentous periods of human history. He said, "... It is an exciting age, filled with hope. An age in which a new world order is being born ... we stand between two worlds: the dying old and the emerging new."

As the associate director of Multicultural Ministries in the Holston Conference since July 2023, The Reverend Leah Burns seeks to lead and guide the church and community as we too, are facing "the challenges of a new age." As we seek to build diverse and inclusive faith communities reflective of our diverse communities, we must honor the cultural richness and traditions that each group brings. The Multicultural Ministries area was created specifically to help our Annual Conference and its congregations achieve full, equal participation of racial and ethnic minority constituencies in the total life and mission of the Church.

Rev. Burns describes herself as a faith-rooted activist in ministry seeking justice and inclusion in the church and community, believing we are to be God's hands and feet here on earth. In Revelation 7:9 where St. John the Apostle said, "I saw many people. No one could tell how many there were. They were from every nation and from every family and from every kind of people and from every language" Rev. Burns seeks to help people live into this Kingdom vision where everyone – black, white, yellow, and brown; male and female; young and old; from every place of origin, family, tribe, tongue, and nation – all are welcome, all are present, all are included, and all are loved.

Rev. Burns actively works to cultivate racial literacy in churches and in the community, bringing people together from disparate backgrounds to foster new relationships. She does this by leading workshops, seminars, book studies, discussions, and Bible studies in communities throughout the Holston Annual Conference which encompasses East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Rev. Burns has been a licensed and certified local pastor for 20 years serving in pastoral appointments at Lennon-Seney, Second, Church Street, and Haven Chapel United Methodist Churches.

Rev. Burns was raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and comes from two generations of AME clergy in her family. Pastoral ministry is a "second career" for Rev. Burns. Previously she held various executive-level positions in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors prior to following the call to pastoral ministry in The United Methodist Church. These career opportunities have taken her to live in six states and abroad to several countries prior to moving to the Knoxville area, where she currently resides.

Activist, community organizer and author DeRay Mckesson wrote in his book *The Other Side of Freedom*: "In each generation there is a moment when young and old, inspired or disillusioned come together around a shared hope, imagine the world as it can be, and have the opportunity to bring that world into existence. Our moment is now!" The world feels so frantic and messy and broken right now, but we can still have hope because God will use our efforts to do amazing and beautiful things. Our moment really is now!!



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Service Program
“Beyond the Dream: Empowering the Beloved Community”
Monday, January 20, 2025
Overcoming Believers Church

Presiding.....Rev. Renee Kesler, President and CEO,
 Beck Cultural Exchange Center

Congregational Hymn.....”Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Invocation.....Rev. Daryl Arnold, Pastor, Overcoming Believers Church

” I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to be Free”Mr. Maurice Hendricks
 Mr. Brian Salesky

Jack and Jill of America, Inc.Royal Teens Presentations

Jakhi Powell, Junior, Career Magnet Academy, President, Jack and Jill, Knoxville
 Chelsey Myles, Freshman, Karns High School, Foundation Chair, Jack and Jill, Knoxville
 Nia Vaughn, Freshman, Karns High School, Secretary, Jack and Jill, Knoxville

Musical Selections.....MLK Holiday Celebration Choir
 Mr. Preston Johnson, Director

Parade Grand Marshal Award.....Mr. Mabrey Duff, MLK Commission
 Rev. and Mrs. Vincent Jones, Jr., Pastor and First Lady, Tabernacle Baptist Church

Presentation of Awards.....Ms. Kim Kearney, MLK Commission

Distinguished Service Award –Dr. Joe Maddox, Justice Knox Co-President
Community Service Award – Mrs. Marti LaRue Baker, CareCuts Ministry
Youth Award – Mr. Javen Carter, Senior, Austin East Magnet High School

Offertory Appeal.....Bishop Farris Long, MLK Commission

Introduction of Speaker.....Ms. Anna Dirl, Director, Faith and Health
 Initiative, New Health Care Solutions

Musical Selection.....MLK Holiday Celebration Choir

Speaker.....Rev. Leah Burns, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries
 for Multicultural Ministries, Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church

Remarks and Recognition.....Mrs. Deborah Porter, Chair, MLK Commission

Closing Song.....”We Shall Overcome”

Benediction.....Rev. Dr. Harold Middlebrook, Chair Emeritus, MLK Commission

Knoxville Baptist District Ushers
 Nursing Assistance Provided by Upsilon Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.



GRAND MARSHALLS

Rev. Vincent and Mrs. Alicia Jones



Rev. Vincent Jones Jr. hails from Knoxville, TN, and is the son of Rev. Dr. Vincent Jones Sr. and Rev. Dr. Montina Jones. A proud graduate of Morehouse College, he earned his degree with honors in 2004, during which time he also served as President of the Martin L. King Jr. Chapel Assistants. His ministry began in Detroit, Michigan, and Atlanta, Georgia, where he served as an associate minister and youth pastor.

In Atlanta, Rev. Jones held the position of Young Adult/College Outreach and Community Engagement Pastor at Wheat Street Baptist Church, later advancing to Executive Pastor. His commitment to community service is evident through his roles on the board of Hope Thru Soap, the Ending Mass Incarceration Initiative at the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, and other civic and non-profit organizations within Metro Atlanta. Rev. Jones also engaged in academic pursuits, graduating with honors in Practical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary, with his studies focusing on the social impacts of gentrification in the historic King District over a 28-year period.

In October 2021, Rev. Jones was called to serve as the Senior Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church back in his hometown, Knoxville. He is also a licensed realtor with Wallace Real Estate and is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Ministry in Holistic Community Development. His leadership extends to the Leadership Knoxville Class of 2024, the City of Knoxville African American Equity Restoration Task Force, Knox County Schools Superintendent's Council for Accelerated Learning, the East TN Association of Realtors, and the East Knoxville Business and Professional Association.

Alicia M. Jones, originally from Montgomery, Alabama, holds both a B.S. and M.S. in Criminal Justice from Troy University, and an Ed.S in Educational Leadership from Kennesaw State University. Since July 2022, she has been the Executive Director of Student Supports for Knox County Schools in Knoxville, TN. Her career began in special education, focusing on students with severe behavioral disorders, gaining expertise in trauma-informed care, mindset de-escalation techniques, and mental health interventions.

Currently, Mrs. Jones oversees strategies, systems, and programs for 91 schools within the district. Her leadership spans several areas including tutoring, academic interventions, services for English language learners, nursing services, support teams, gifted and talented education, and the operation of Knox County's Drug Recovery High School. Additionally, she serves alongside her husband, Pastor Vincent M. Jones Jr., at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, leading the Titus 2 Women's Ministry which fosters a community of women growing in faith and impacting the world.

Mrs. Jones is also active on the Knoxville Nativity Pageant Board of Directors, the City of Knoxville Community Health Council, the East TN Council on Children and Youth, the Project GRAD Advisory Committee, and the Charter Schools Review Committee. She is a member of the Tennessee Association of Administrators of Special Education and has served as the 1st Vice President in Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Society. Mrs. Jones graduated from the LK Introduction Knoxville class of 2024 and is a devoted mother to Camille Laila (12) and Vincent III (9).



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Rev. Joe Maddox



Dr. Joe B. Maddox, esteemed for his deep commitment to the ministry and community service, has recently retired after over three decades as the head pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Knoxville. Born on January 19, 1947, in Hamilton, Georgia, Dr. Maddox committed his life to Christ at the age of seven. His educational pursuits earned him a Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Valley State University and a Master of Science from Tuskegee University, leading to a Doctor of Ministry degree from the North American School of Theology.

His calling to preach was realized while employed with the U.S. Department of the Interior in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, before dedicating himself fully to ministry in 1994 upon his retirement from the federal government. Under his leadership, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church expanded its mission efforts both locally and abroad in the Virgin Islands, Kenya, and Uganda.

Dr. Maddox has also served as the President/Director of the Knoxville Interdenominational Bible Institute, Inc., and State Director of Missions for the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc. He was the Co-President of Justice Knox, advocating for justice and equity within the community.

Dr. Maddox's journey has been supported by his beloved wife, the late Vivian Goodwin Maddox, and their family. His legacy is one of unwavering faith, love, and dedication to service, embodying the true spirit of pastoral care and community engagement. His contributions have left an indelible mark on his congregation and the broader community, earning him widespread respect and admiration.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mrs. Marti LaRue Baker



Knoxville native Martha “Marti” LaRue Baker has been a barber, stylist, and instructor for over 40 years. She is the owner of Salon LaRue and the founder of CareCuts, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to restoring dignity to the homeless and the displaced, enriching them through the promise of hope in Jesus Christ. After joining the Lost Sheep Ministry, Marti wanted to do more to help unhoused people, so she began offering free haircuts and grooming services. In April of 2016, CareCuts, Inc. was born. The organization quickly began addressing other basic needs and until recently, it was run entirely by volunteers, with Marti helping clients access everything from medical care to shelter. Between 2016 and 2024, CareCuts, Inc. gave more than 13,000 haircuts, served nearly 100,000 meals, and helped more than 400 unhoused people get off the street and into temporary or permanent housing. The downtown location meets people where they are, and although the organization provides a range of critical services, one of the simplest has had the biggest effect: providing a mailbox that enables homeless individuals to access vital documents, food stamps, and communication with family. Over the years, numerous volunteers and partners have supported Marti’s mission, especially her husband, Archie Baker, and they continue to support CareCuts, Inc. as the nonprofit works toward 24/7 availability.



YOUTH AWARD

Mr. Javen Carter



Javen Carter, a senior at Austin-East Magnet High School, stands out as a multifaceted student, athlete, and leader, demonstrating excellence in academics, athletics, and community service. His commitment to leadership and academic excellence is evident through his involvement in prestigious organizations and initiatives. For four years, Javen has participated in The S.M.A.R.T. Institute, which focuses on academic enrichment and career readiness. He is a member of Beta Theta Boule and the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), and takes part in Project Excellence, a University of Tennessee youth leadership program that offers college credits to participants. Additionally, Javen is involved in Project U, promoting kindness and positivity at school, and Project Grad, which provides college experiences to high school students.

Athletically, Javen excels in both soccer and football. He has been a crucial member of his school's varsity soccer team since his freshman year, serving as team captain for three seasons. In football, he has shown his dedication and reliability as a team player throughout his sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Javen's academic journey is marked by numerous accolades. In his senior year, he received the Dr. Ruth Queen Smith Award from the University of Tennessee and the Service to Humanity Award from the Optimist Club of Knoxville. As a junior, he earned 1st Honors and as a sophomore, he was recognized as one of MTSU's True Blue 100 Top Rising Sophomores, achieving 2nd Honors and the highest male GPA. His freshman achievements include making the Principal's List, Freshman All-Stars, and 1st Honors. He is also a published co-author of *The Word of Our Testimony: The Text Generation* (2021).

Beyond the classroom and sports field, Javen is actively involved in community service. He volunteers with Project Grad, Good Fellows Funeral Home, and Muse Knoxville, helping with tasks such as yard work and outdoor cleaning. He also supports the Emerald Youth Foundation, assisting with homework for elementary students, and participates in the Blessings on Bell Street Christmas event, distributing gifts and serving concessions.

An active member of the Overcoming Believers Church, Javen integrates his faith into his everyday activities. Alongside his numerous commitments, he has been working at Walmart since January 2023. Javen Carter's exceptional achievements, leadership skills, and dedication to service distinguish him as a role model and a promising young leader.



Beyond the Dream: Empowering the Beloved Community

ANNUAL MLK TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY

Guest Speaker:
Vrondelia "Ronni" Chandler

MARCH
29
2025

\$25

REGISTRATION

8:30A
-
2:00P



- Gain 5 Continuing Education Hours
- Interactive Breakout Sessions
- Community Resource Fair
- Networking Opportunities
- Complimentary Breakfast & Lunch
- Free Event T-Shirt

.....

Visit the MLK Jr. website to register for the MLK Teacher In-service Day. Don't miss this opportunity to grow professionally and join a community striving to Empower the Beloved Community.

**Sarah Simpson Professional
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801 Tipton Ave,
Knoxville, TN 37920**

.....

MLK
COMMEMORATIVE
COMMISSION

www.mlkknoxville.com/teacher



MLK JR. JUNETEENTH
PARADE & CELEBRATION

JUNE 19TH
10 AM - 4 PM

Join us for the annual MLK Jr. Parade & Juneteenth Celebration on Wednesday, June 19, from Burlington to Dr. Walter Hardy Park. The parade kicks off at 10 AM with a vibrant lineup featuring live entertainment, music performances, drumlines, and precision drill teams. The Juneteenth celebration follows at 11 AM, offering a day filled with food, retail vendors, and crafts. Last year's events drew record attendance, and we aim to outdo ourselves again! Vendors, please scan the QR code to reserve your spot—space is limited.



**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • DJ • MUSIC PERFORMANCES • DRUMLINE
 FOOD VENDORS • RETAIL VENDORS • CRAFTS • KIDS AREA**





***Beyond the Dream,
Empowering the
Beloved Communities***

*"We shall overcome because the arc of the
moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice".
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

The City of Knoxville is proud to support the
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

*Where Dreams
Take Wing*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
 Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
 Let our rejoicing rise, high as the lis-t'ing skies,
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
 Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
 Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
 Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
 We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
 We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
 Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
 Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
 True to our God, true to our native land.



<http://www.tennessee.edu>





*Lawson Family
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**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**“ LIFE’S MOST
PERSISTENT
AND URGENT
QUESTION IS,
‘WHAT ARE YOU
DOING FOR
OTHERS?’ ”**

Emerald Youth
FOUNDATION





“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Congratulations
ON THE THE 43RD ANNUAL
KING WEEK CELEBRATION



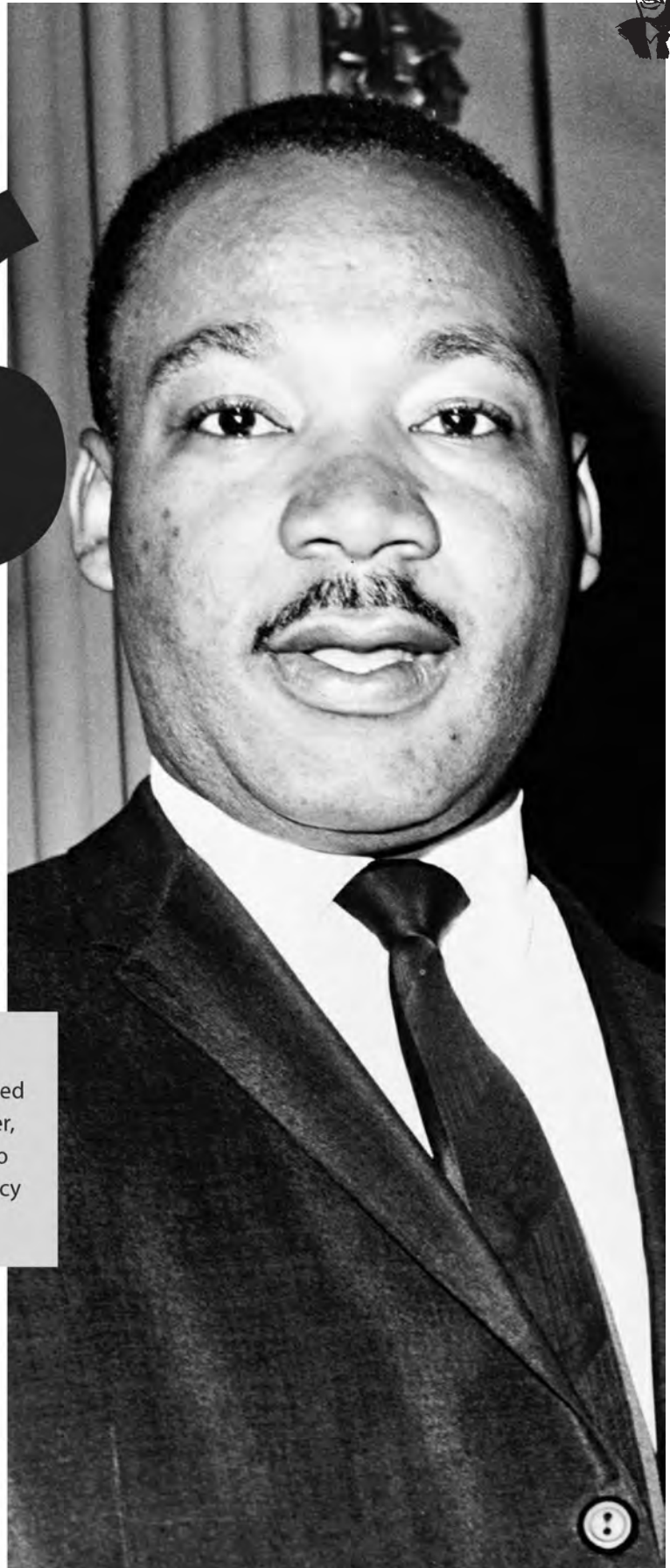
Sam McKenzie
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
rep.sam.mckenzie@capitol.tn.gov
(615)741-0768



“

Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



The call to act selflessly for others indeed persists, and together, we can do our part to honor Dr. King’s legacy here in Knoxville.

Kincannon
★
KNOXVILLE MAYOR

PAID FOR BY KINCANNON FOR KNOXVILLE, KELLY JOHNSON, TREASURER



*~In Support of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission~*



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Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor

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– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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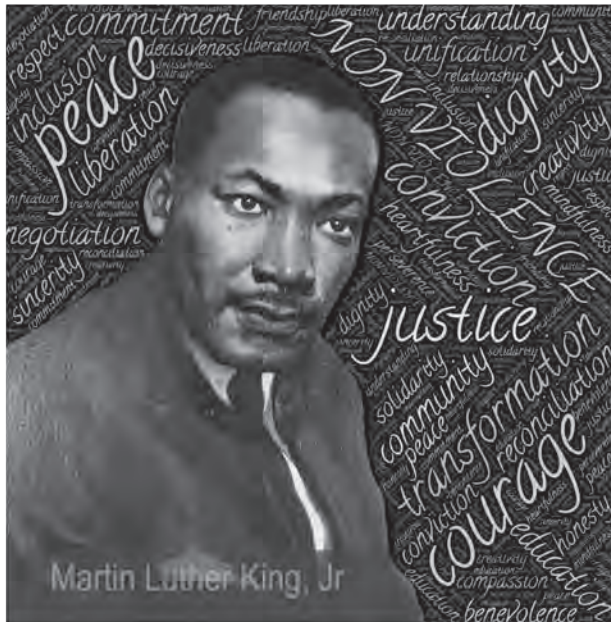
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**Congratulations to the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission 2025
on your
43rd Annual King Week Celebration**



**True peace
is not merely
the absence of tension;
it is the presence
of justice.**

Stride Toward Freedom, 1958



**Alpha Xi Chapter of
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Salutes You for the Staying the Course!**



**First row: Monica Reed (President), Phyllis Moore,
Theresa Taylor, Ann McPherson, Dr. Evelyn Hallman;
Second row: Bessie Jowers, Evelyn Nicholson, Gussie Cherry,
Debra Leon, Lonnie Kincaid-Gallaher, Tina Bush;
Not pictured: Loretta Bradley, Lula C. Powell, (Honorary Member);**



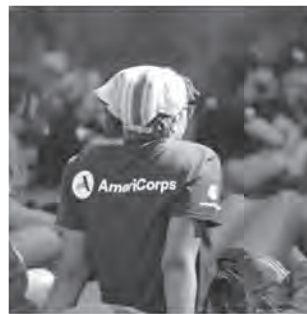
Knoxville—Knox County Community Action Committee



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BIBLE STUDY- 9AM
WORSHIP-10:30 AM**

**WEDNESDAYS
DEANE HILL DINER- 5PM
MINISTRY ACTIVITIES- 6PM**

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"Injustice
 anywhere is a
 threat to justice
 everywhere."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



OFFICE *of the* DISTRICT
 ATTORNEY GENERAL
 6th Judicial District • Charmé P. Allen





In remembrance of the dream,
and to honor the legacy of our
brother, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Alpha Mu Lambda Chapter of
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



Congratulations Knoxville MLK Commemorative Commission
and see you at the...

Knoxville Alumnae Chapter of

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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GALA



Food, music, dancing and more

SAT, MARCH 29, 2025

at The Venue at Lenoir City

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See any member of the Knoxville Alumnae Chapter
for tickets or visit dstknoxvillealumnae.com





Knox Education Foundation

The Knox Education Foundation (KEF) is a catalyst for transforming public education to achieve excellent outcomes for all students.

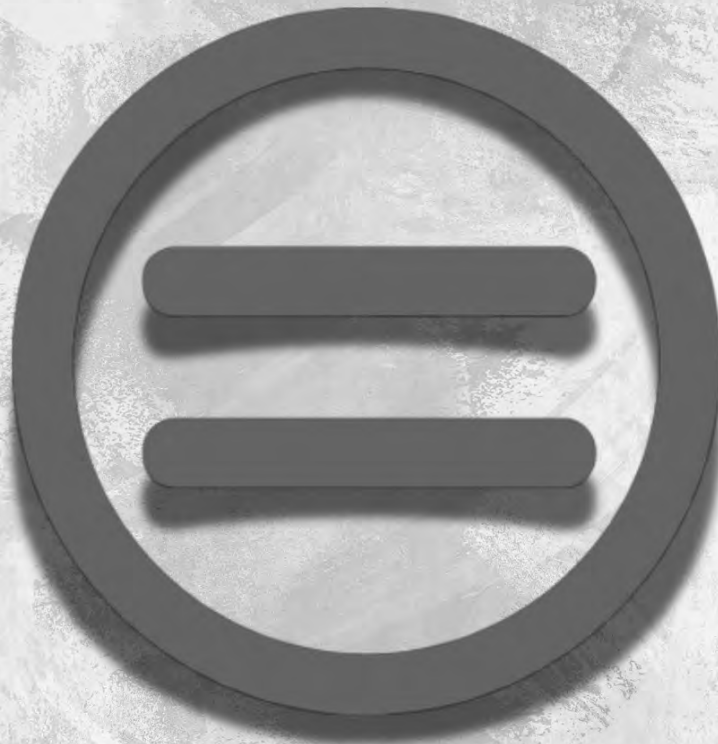
“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.





Knoxville Area Urban League



The Knoxville Area Urban League is elated to participate in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrating the enduring legacy of his leadership, vision, and profound impact on our organization, country, and the world.

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It really boils down
to this: that all life
is interrelated.
We are all caught
in an inescapable
network of
mutuality, tied
into a single
garment of
destiny. Whatever
affects one destiny,
affects all
indirectly.

- Reverend Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.

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The Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee Welcomes You

The Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee is engaged in the Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community initiative, focusing on racial reconciliation, healing, and justice through programs and offerings including pilgrimages, educational resources, anti-racism training, and the storytelling initiative.

These efforts align with the broader mission of the Episcopal Church to create communities where all individuals experience dignity and abundant life, recognizing each person as a beloved child of God.

For more detailed information on these initiatives, please visit our Beloved Community page.

Together, we're building a community where everyone is truly beloved.



www.dioet.org/beloved-community



**Pellissippi State is honored to continue promoting
the leadership and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.**



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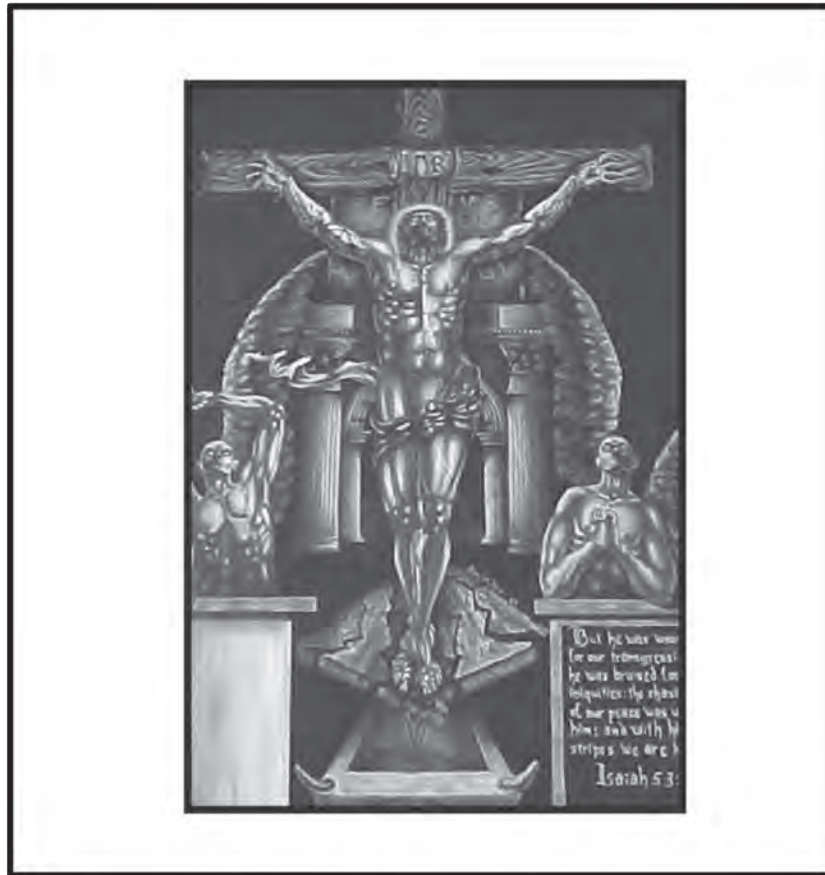


**Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
1807 Dandridge Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37915**

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Email: mtcalvary@comcast.net
URL: www.mtcalvaryknox.com

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Founded 1860



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The Reverend Dr. Johnnie W. Skinner, Sr., Senior Pastor

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“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says, the Lord of host”

Zachariah 4:6



CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Building Relationships

Conversations on Race is made up of a diverse group of individuals committed to following ***Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings in voice, action, and love.***

Inspired by his selfless and purpose-filled life, we continually focus our work on ***deconstructing systems that uphold and benefit racism.***

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Rev. Ron D. Morton, Deacon-in-Charge

Rev. Gayle Hansen Browne, Priest Associate for Liturgy

Candace Armstrong, Music Director





UPSILON CHI CHAPTER
OF
CHI ETA PHI SORORITY, INCORPORATED

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

JANUARY 20, 2025

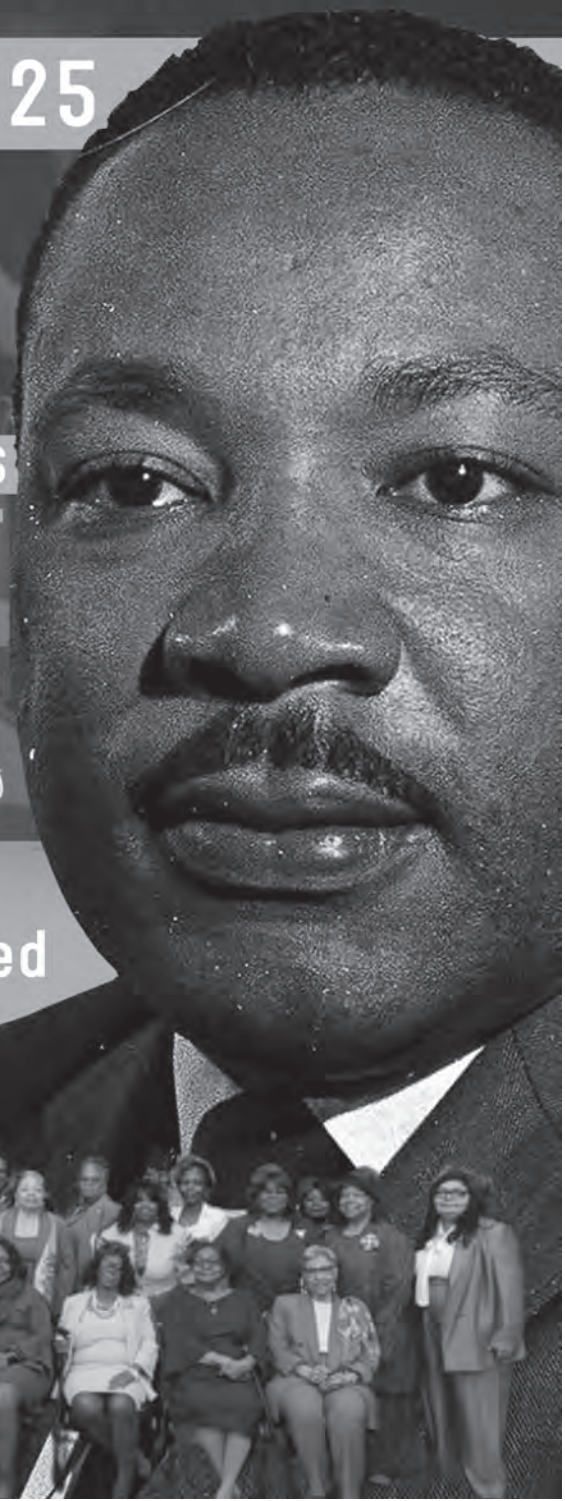
MLK

43RD ANNUAL KING WEEK ACTIVITIES

DAY

Martin Luther King Jr.

Beyond the Dream,
Empowering the Beloved
Communities





Congratulations

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission

43rd Annual King Week Celebration 2025

Beyond the Dream, Empowering the Beloved Communities



Shiloh Presbyterian Church (USA)

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1865- 2024

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Minister, Rev. John Ghosten

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Nehemiah 9:1

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Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, Inc.

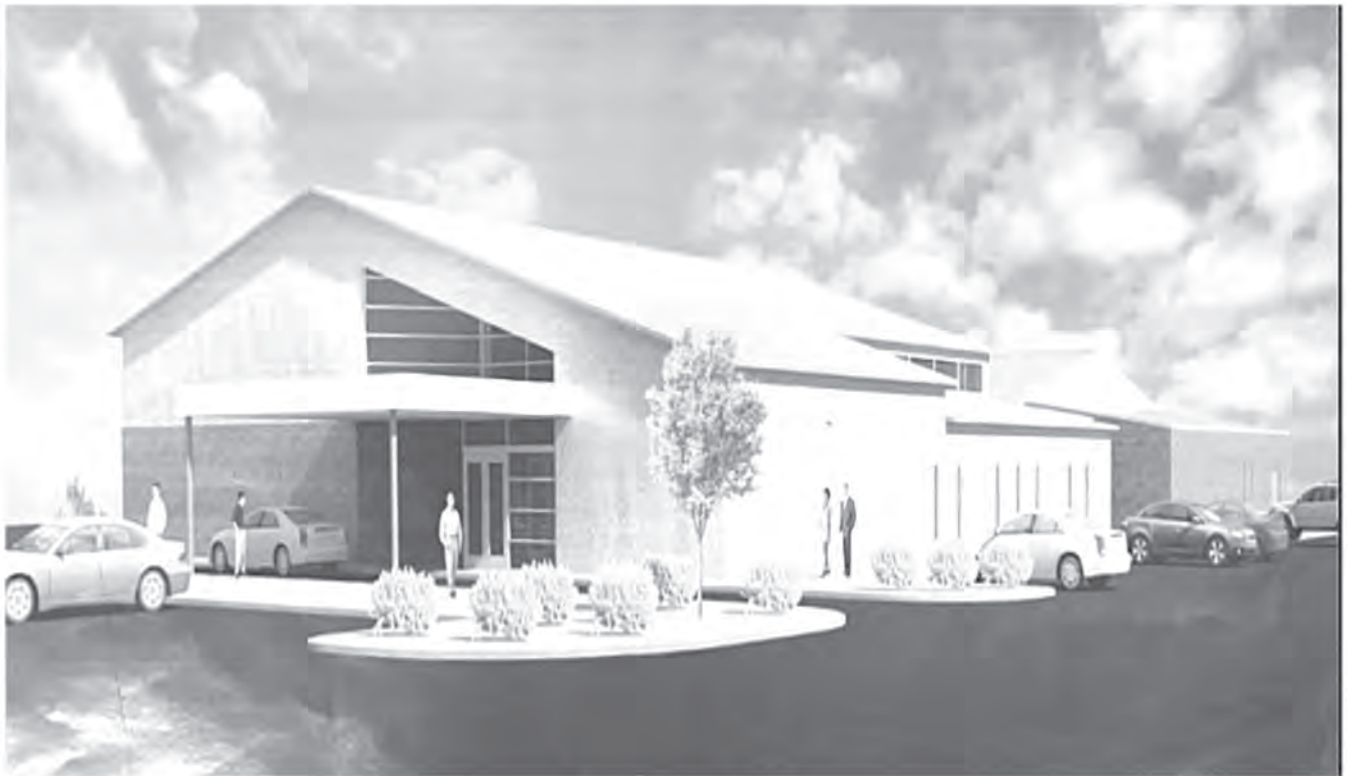
Salutes

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

In celebration

Of

King Week 2025



Future Site

1117 Beaman Lake Road
Knoxville, TN 37914
(865) 524-2842

Harold A. Middlebrook, Pastor



Dr. King had a vision of the future with us walking side by side as brothers and sisters. Let us continue to strive together in faith towards realizing the fulfillment of this dream.



Lennon-Seney United Methodist Church
2084 Dandridge Avenue Knoxville, TN 37914
Rev. Dr. Samuel Dzobo, Pastor
(865) 381-2830
Sunday School @ 10:00am





*We Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
With the Commission in their Observance of this Day!*

Congratulations!



3615 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

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BE THE LIGHT!**



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Still Dreams



Bethel Blessings to ...

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission of Knoxville

Thank You for still dreaming of a better
KNOXVILLE!!!

Bethel
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KNOXVILLE

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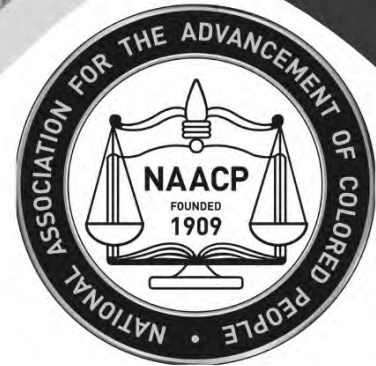
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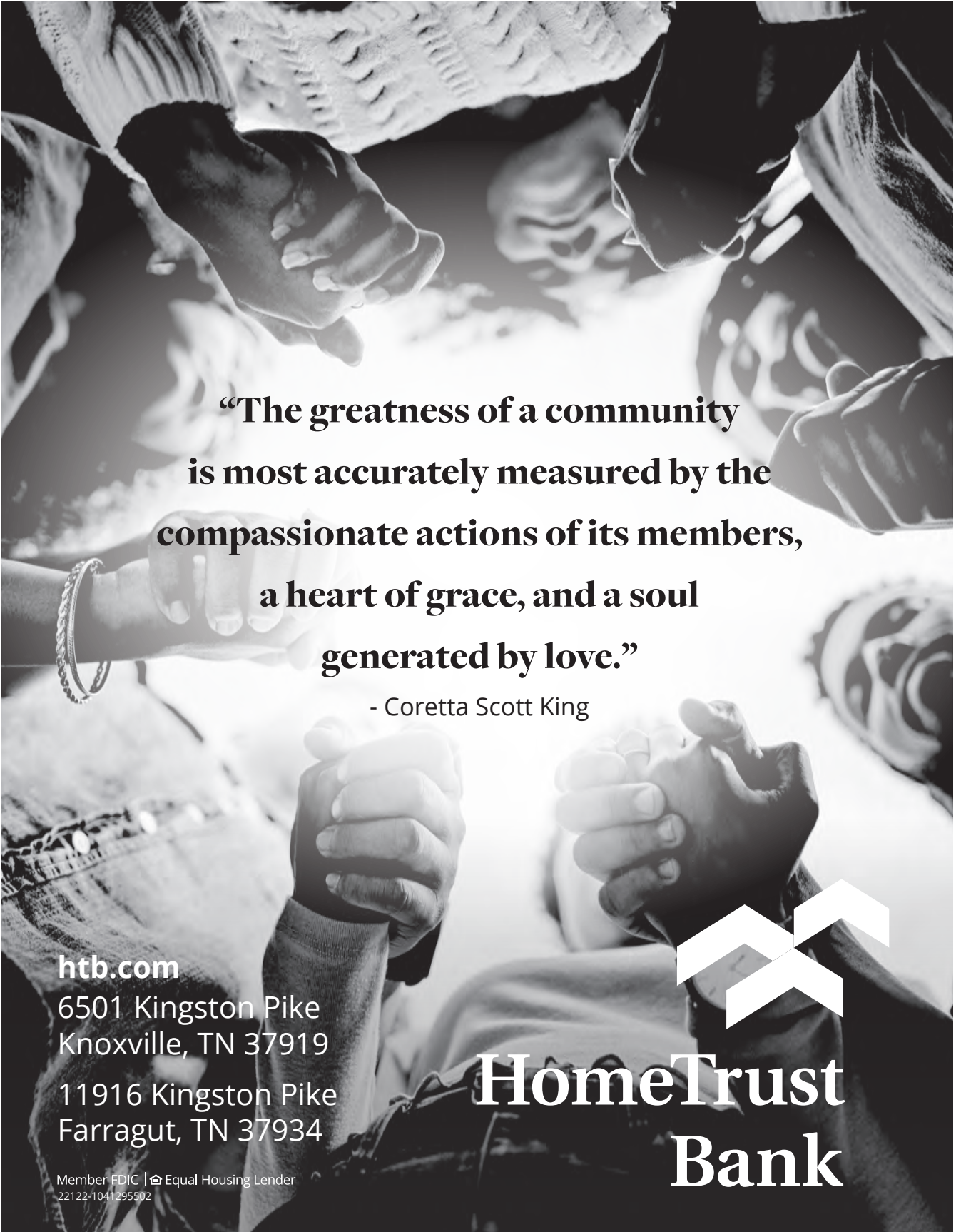
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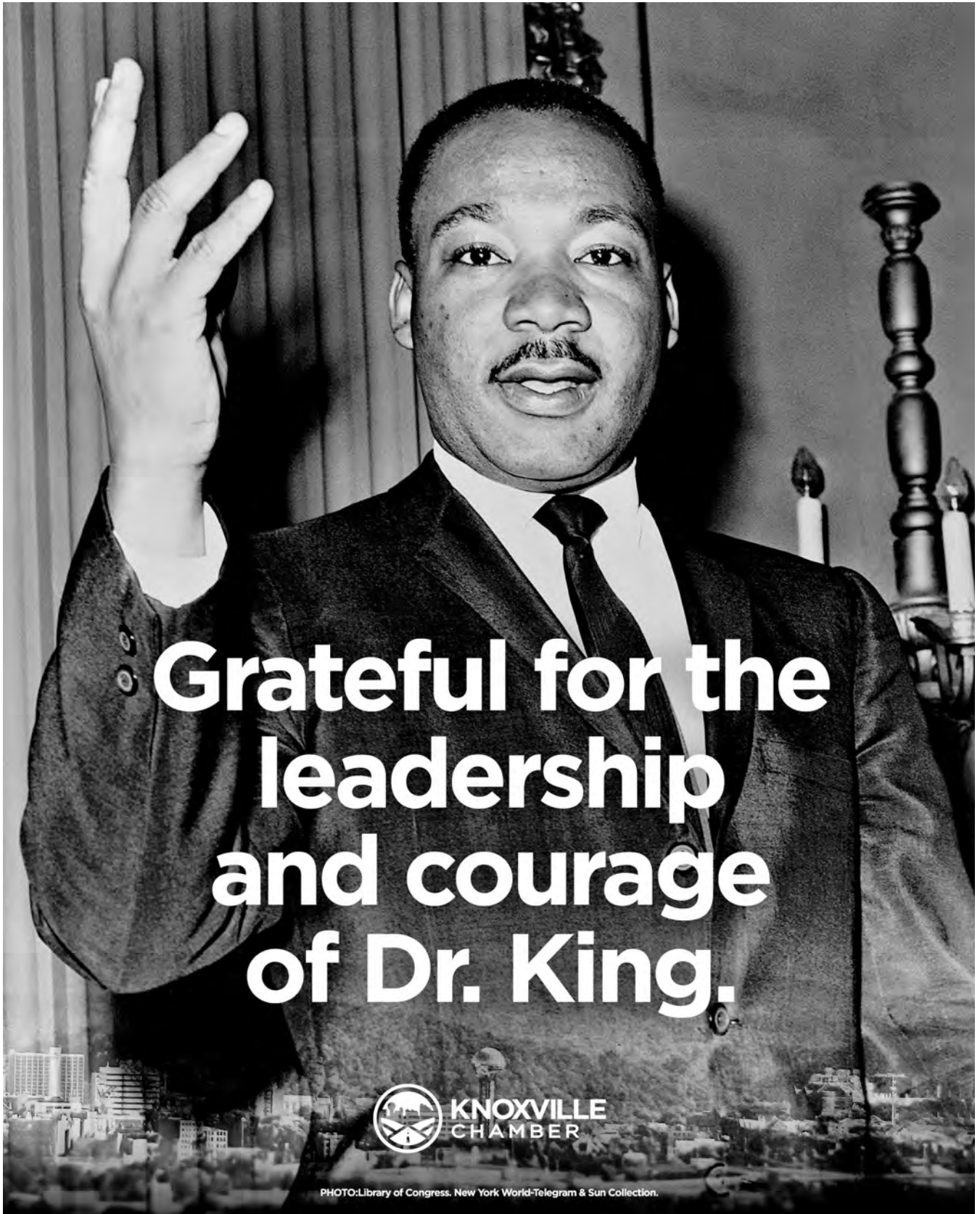
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At the core of our purpose—to build better lives and communities—are the values that guide us to be intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion. We do the work every day to diversify our leadership, empower all teammates, and fight for the opportunities we all deserve. Because we believe a culture where we can live and contribute our authentic selves is a stronger one.



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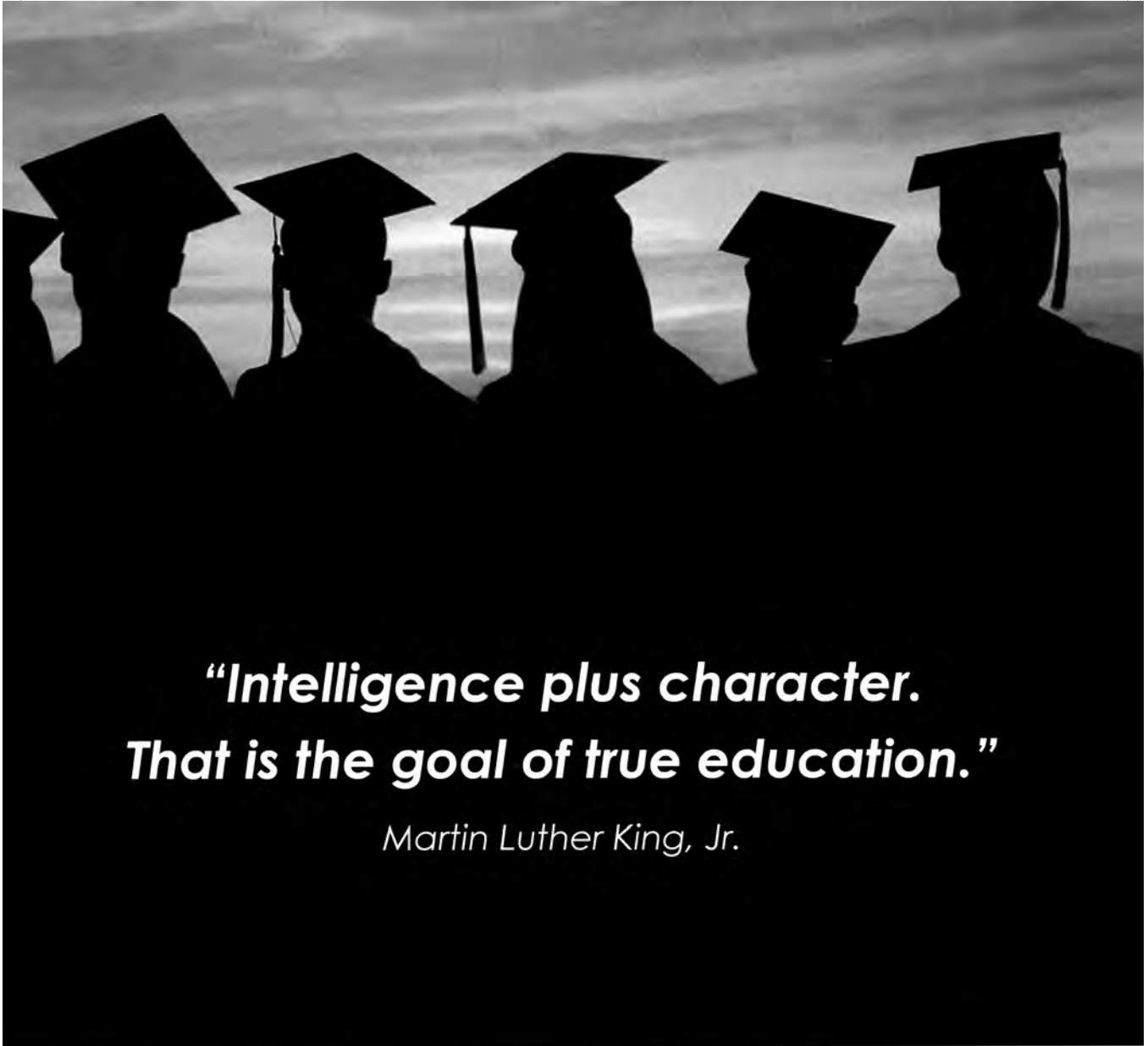
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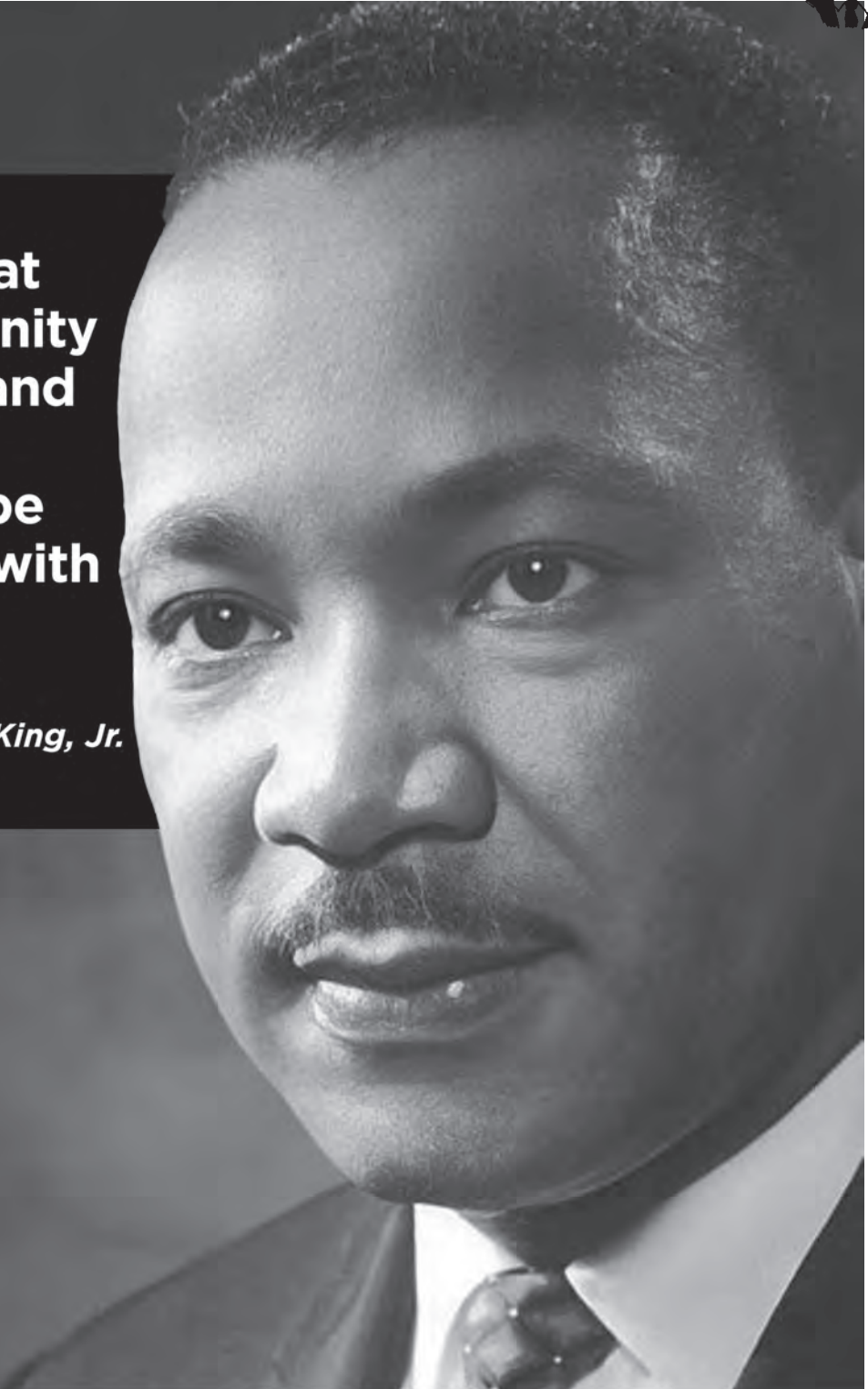
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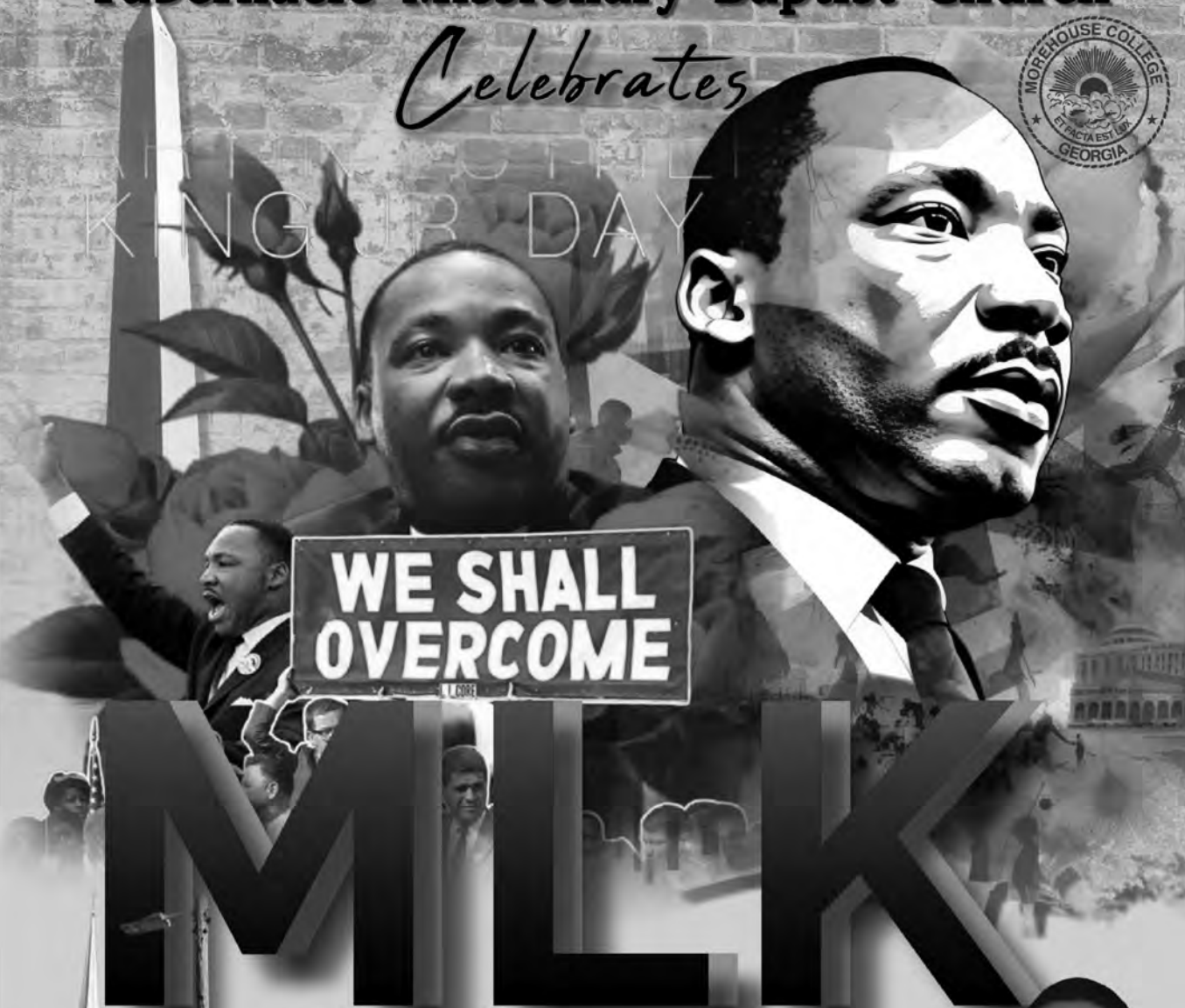




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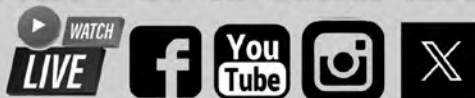
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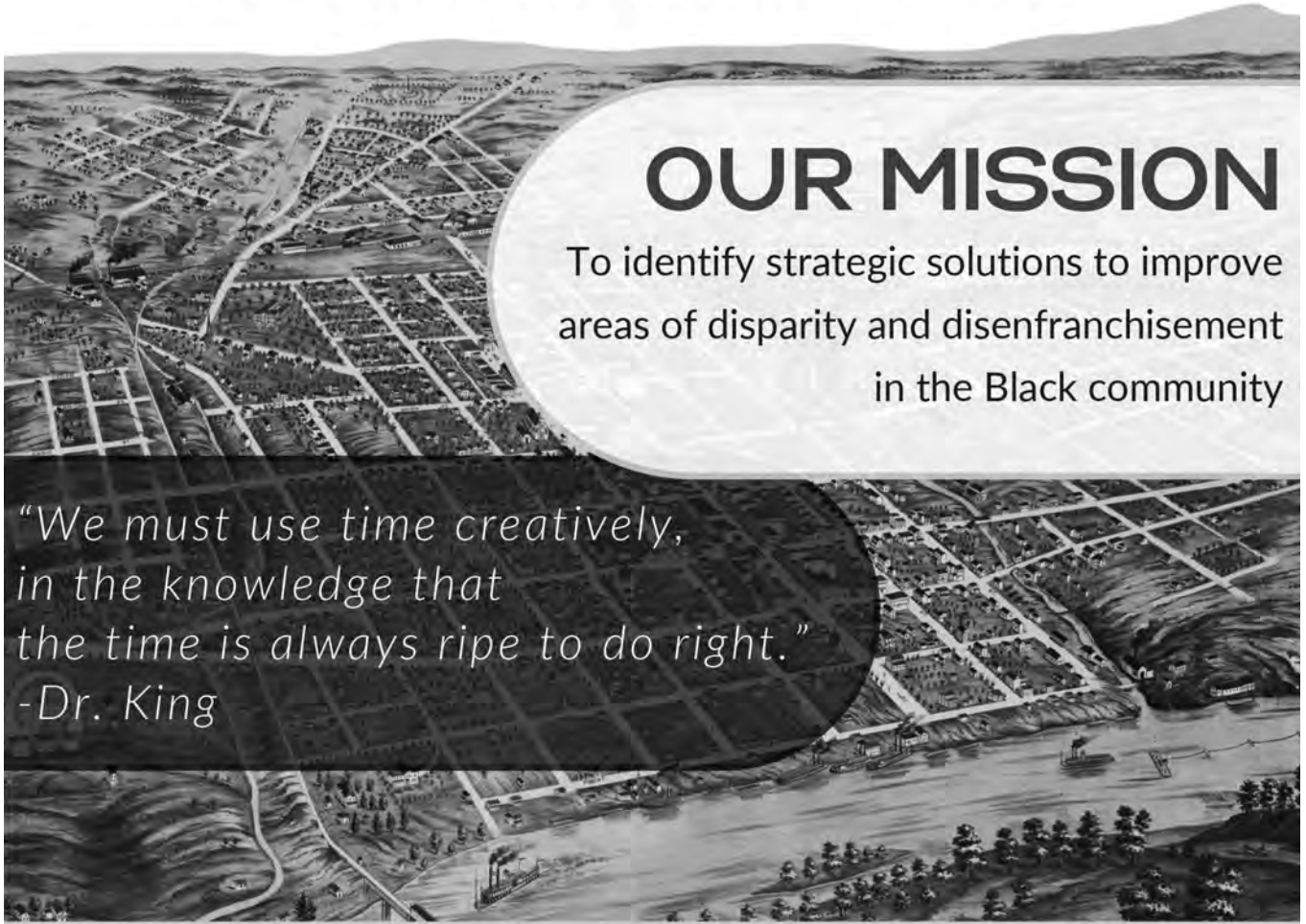
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OUR MISSION

To identify strategic solutions to improve areas of disparity and disenfranchisement in the Black community

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES BEYOND THE DREAM

For decades, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission has honored Dr. King's legacy in Knoxville by empowering our community.

Their mission shines brightly in stories like LaShae's, a participant in United Way of Greater Knoxville's East Tennessee Collaborative, who overcame challenges and graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee where she is now a proud member of its staff.

This is what it means to go beyond the dream: empowering individuals and communities to thrive.

Learn more about how we are
empowering communities, one
dream at a time, at uwgk.org/etc.



UNITED WAY
Greater Knoxville

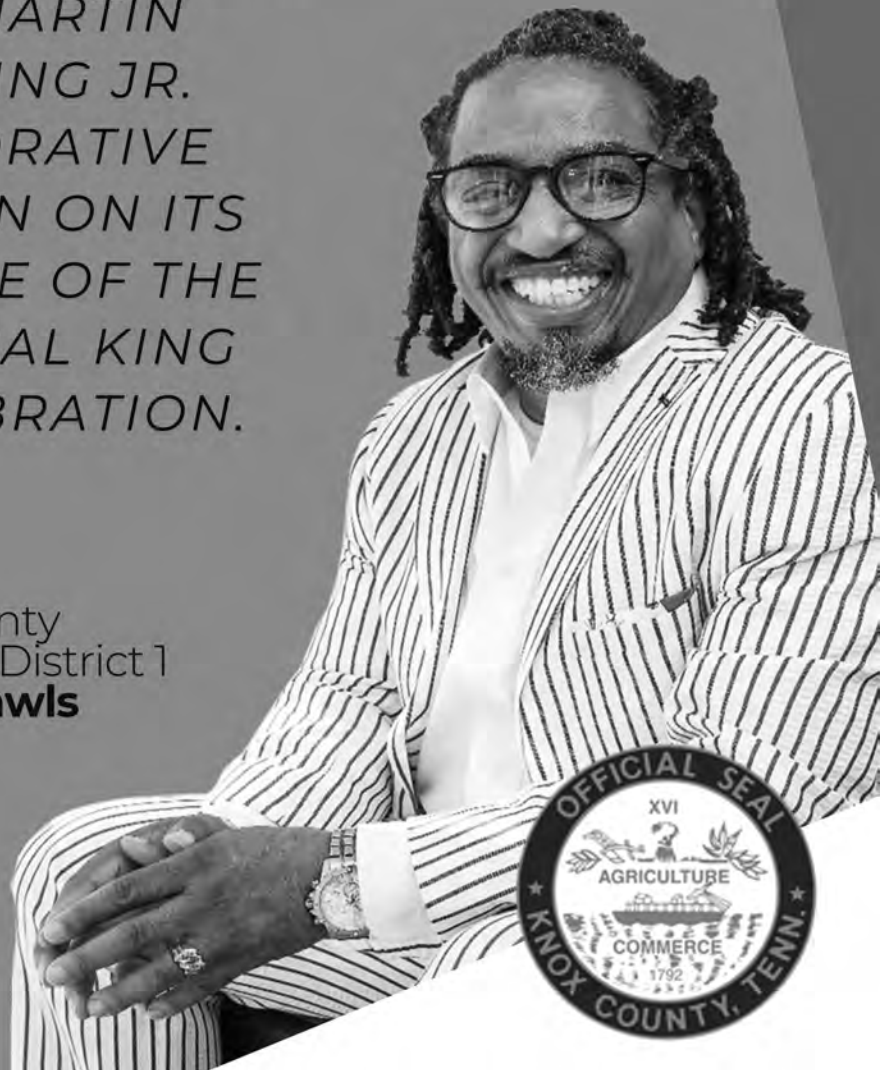


“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

— Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

*CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE DR. MARTIN
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*And they have come to realize that their freedom is
inextricably tied to our freedom.*

WE CANNOT WALK ALONE.

*And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we
shall always march ahead.*

WE CANNOT TURN BACK.

August 28, 1963
On the Steps of the Lincoln Memorial

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JANUARY

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The Dr. MLK, Jr.
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Dr. King, the Humanitarian

Dr. King, the Dreamer

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'What are you doing for others?'"





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Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the lis-t'ing skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

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MLK COMMISSION MEMBERS



First Row left to right - Deborah Porter, Kim Kearney, Donna Hardy, Mary Henderson, Dr. Maxine Davis, Linda Parris-Bailey

Second Row - left to right - Laschinski Emerson, Brian Brooks, Eric Lattimore, Preston Johnson, Cynthia Daniels

Not Pictured: Bishop Farris Long, Rev. Gordon Gibson, Mabrey Duff, Robin DeHart, Ann Dingus, Loretta Fowlkes, Dean Rice and Clarence Vaughn.

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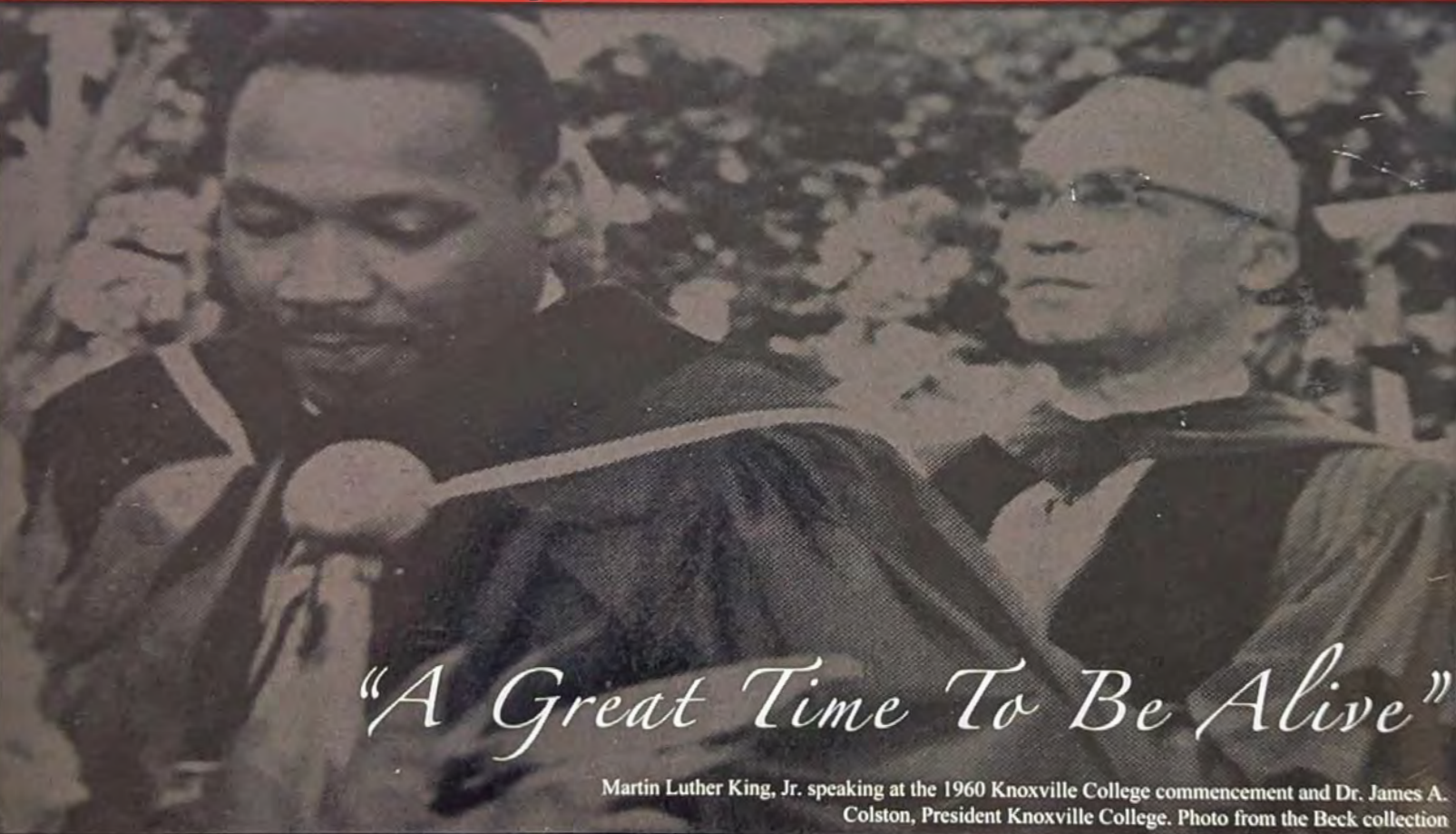
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Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking at the 1960 Knoxville College commencement and Dr. James A. Colston, President Knoxville College. Photo from the Beck collection

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Martin Luther King, Jr.