



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Historic Site
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National Park Service News Release

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Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Begin its 30th Anniversary Year with King Holiday Events

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and Preservation District since its establishment on October 10, 1980. The celebrations begin with events commemorating the 81st birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 15, 1929, in an upstairs bedroom at 501 Auburn Avenue Martin Luther King, Jr. was born. On January 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., his birthday celebrations begin inside the Visitor Center Auditorium with Dr. King's sister, Dr. Christine King Farris, sharing her experiences growing up with her brother. Dr. Farris will read her ***My Brother Martin*** children's book to students from Atkinson and Hill-Hope Elementary Schools. During the puppet show, ***A Dream Shared by Two***, students will hear from characters, Uncle Jessie, a senior citizen, and Malcolm, a young person, share stories of Dr. King's boyhood and the importance of celebrating his birthday. Birthday cake will be served afterwards.

On Saturday, January 16, 2010, the site will host two commemorative tributes. The first tribute will commence at 11:30 a.m. with a concert performed by the Georgia State Defense Force Band inside the site's Visitor Center Auditorium. The second tribute begins at 2:00 p.m. at the Horizon Sanctuary of Ebenezer Baptist Church. This event features Dr. Alveda C. King and the U.S. Naval Academy Gospel Choir. Dr. Alveda C. King, daughter of the late civil rights activist Reverend A. D. King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will provide reflections on Dr. King. The U.S. Naval Academy Gospel Choir will provide musical tributes in honor of Dr. King.

On Monday, January 18, 2010, an Open House of the Birth Home will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. Visitors will be able to walk through the home where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived in from birth to age twelve. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the community and family life that nurtured this Civil Rights leader. To participant in this Open House event, visitors can meet Park Rangers at the front steps of the Birth Home at 501 Auburn Avenue for a walk through of the home.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site progresses through its 30th anniversary year, other celebratory events are being planned that include the re-opening ceremony for historic Ebenezer Baptist Church and the park's 30th Anniversary event in October. More information about these events will be forthcoming and made available on our website: www.nps.gov/malu.

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