



Office of the Will County Board

Herbert Brooks, Jr., Speaker

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Board encourages residents to participate in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Service projects, volunteer opportunities planned throughout the county

JOLIET, IL- The Will County Board today remembered the vital role civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. played in American history and called on residents to give back to their communities by participating in a day of service on Monday, January 20. Dr. King would have turned 85 years old on January 15.

"Dr. King set a tremendous example of how to effectively advocate for change in an era of great civil injustices," said Speaker Herbert Brooks, Jr. "We can best honor his dream by giving of our time and resources to serve those around us and moving our country closer to his vision for a 'beloved community.'"

Dr. King is largely credited with helping to create the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. From 1957 to 1968, he traveled 6 million miles, gave 2500 speeches, and wrote five books as well as dozens of articles. He is famously known for his 1963 speech, "I Have a Dream," delivered in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

"The dream first articulated by Dr. King lives on today because countless Americans continue to peacefully fight for the basic principle that all men and women are created equal," said board member Denise Winfrey (D-Joliet). "The dream also stays alive when we put others' needs ahead of our own and come together to make our communities better places. One of the ways we do this is through the MLK Day of Service, and we encourage residents to participate."

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. King in 1964. In 1983, 15 years after his assassination, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation making the third Monday of every January a public holiday to celebrate Dr. King and what he stood for during his life. Dr. King was the first African American and the fourth non-president honored with his own memorial in the National Mall area. The memorial opened in August 2011.

"We are forever indebted to Dr. King for his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made for our country," said Democratic caucus chair Diane Zigrossi (D-Crest Hill). "MLK Day of Service is a great way to get involved with organizations making real differences in our county."

More information on the MLK Day of Service and service opportunities are available on mlkday.gov.

"To better our communities, I encourage all Will County residents to not take a day off, but instead, take a day on by volunteering for one of the many not-for-profit organizations in our county," said Republican caucus chair Jim Moustis (R-Frankfort).

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