

PRESS RELEASE



Hundreds of youth will join the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission at the State Capitol to observe the 55th Anniversary of the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., take the pledge for nonviolence to address community violence

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will promote service, commitment to nonviolence to youth attendees during Commemorative Vigil honoring the passing of iconic civil rights leader

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The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in the State of Arkansas. The AMLKC is guided by Dr. King's mission and philosophy of love, tolerance, and nonviolence. It strives for social improvement in Arkansas, helping communities and organizations achieve new leadership and public service levels. The AMLKC works directly with youth and others, encouraging them to embrace alternatives to violence and discover their common humanity. Through activities that stress racial and cultural diversity, the AMLKC offers Arkansans a new understanding of their important roles in the communities, now and in the future.

The King Commission has created a historical event that welcomes creativity and diversity. The AMLKC's standard of excellence will be maintained by honoring Dr. King's life as well as the civil act of Governor Winthrop Rockefeller. Rockefeller was the only Southern Governor known to hold a public memorial service after the assassination of Dr. King. This service was a defining moment for Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, sending a message of racial reconciliation to the people of Arkansas.

This Annual Commemorative Vigil serves as a celebration in remembrance of the noble works and tenets of Dr. King. The AMLKC takes great pride in fulfilling Dr. King's philosophies of social equality and multiculturalism. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announces the 2023 Commemorative Vigil in observance of the 55th anniversary of Dr. King's passing. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 4th, 10:00 AM at the Arkansas State Capitol, 500 Woodlane, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. Hundreds of youth from across the state will convene on the grounds of the state capitol to hear reflections about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his impact on history. There will also be artistic presentations led by students, youth will take the pledge of nonviolence to commit to lives of peace and reconciliation. Craig O'Neil, veteran broadcaster and legendary announcer will be the keynote speaker. The Commission will also proclaim April 4th as statewide Youth Community Service Day, encouraging youth to commit to lifelong community service within their districts. The event is free and open to the public.

“As we prepare for the summer months we want to be mindful of the violence in our communities, says DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director. Dr King in his final speech stated that he wanted to be remembered as “someone who tried to help somebody.” This is what we want to instill in our youth, that spirit of service and encouraging our young people to lead lives of nonviolence and commit to nonviolence in their communities, promote nonviolence as a way of life”

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