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“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”
—DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Blackbaud builds essential software that allows purpose-driven organizations to maximize their social impact.

We're demonstrating our commitment to a better world through a day of service this MLK Day.

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City of Charleston

JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

January 12, 2023

Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 51st Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, considered South Carolina's largest tribute to the enduring legacy of Dr. King.

Over the course of 10 days every January, our community enjoys events such as the MLK Tri-County Ecumenical Service, MLK Holiday Parade as well as the MLK Business and Professional Summit and more.

As Honorary Chair of the MLK Business and Professional Summit, I wish to thank Ms. Lou W. Kennedy, CEO and owner of Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation, for serving as our keynote speaker, and Ms. Anita Zucker, CEO of the InterTech Group, for serving as the MLK Summit Chair. This event is considered the premier event of the MLK Celebration and is the largest annual fund raiser for the YWCA Greater Charleston, sponsor of the MLK Celebration.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. achieved unequaled moral stature and commanded worldwide respect as he led our nation in its quest for civil and human rights with remarkable eloquence and courage. So, as we celebrate the anniversary of his birth, let us reaffirm our commitment to the honorable principles for which Dr. King lived, and ultimately, gave his life.

Once again, welcome and thank you for joining us.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor, City of Charleston
November 28, 2022

YWCA Greater Charleston
Post Office Box 80935
Charleston, SC 29416

Dear Friends,

With a full heart and great optimism, I wish my very best to your organization and its 51st Annual MLK Celebration.

"Life’s most persistent and urgent question,” Dr. King once advised, “is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

The YWCA continues to do for others, in ways big and small. Please know that your good works are felt and are appreciated.

In a time of political and social unrest, the YWCA’s mission and service to our community has never been more important. In the words of Dr. King, “The time is always right to do what is right,” and in 2023, I am so thankful that the YWCA’s is part of our community’s journey.

Thank you for this Celebration and thank you for your service, for all you have done and for all you will do.

With warmest regards,

Gregory S. Habib
Mayor
January 2023

YWCA Greater Charleston
1064 Gardener Rd, Ste 113
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the 51st Annual MLK celebration! We are thrilled that you have joined in the festivities. One thing I love about celebrations is how they bring people together. In my years as Mayor, I have also learned that work brings people together, too. When there is a vision that people believe in, they want to be a part of accomplishing it. They want to be a part of the team to see it through. Another thing that I have learned is that there is always still more work to be done.

Today, as you celebrate, think about all that has been accomplished, but don’t leave with that thought alone. Continue to think of how you can be a part of the work that is still to be done. Sometimes we have an opportunity to do big work. However, I find true success is often found in the small acts that we do consistently over time. It’s choosing to do the work even when it seems easy to push off for another day.

May today inspire you to be a part of the work that will lead to future celebrations. May you take small steps, consistently over time, that will add up to big things.

Warm regards,

Mayor Christie Rainwater
Hanahan, SC
January 4, 2023

YWCA Greater Charleston
1064 Garner Rd. Suite 113
Charleston SC 29414

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to extend warm greetings to the benefactors of the 51st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration commemorating the 69th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commanded worldwide respect as he led our nation in the quest for civil rights for African-Americans and others through his personal courage and non-violent philosophy.

The YWCA of Greater Charleston carries on Dr. King’s lifelong ambitions with their programs fostering peace, justice, human rights, women’s health and sustainable communities for everyone regardless of race or creed. We are proud to support the commemoration of Dr. King and his legacy this January and throughout the year.

Congratulations to the staff and board of the YWCA for their contributions to our Lowcountry community and best wishes for future success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Phillip Pounds
Mayor, City of Isle of Palms

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January 12, 2023

We are so excited to be back in person networking and fellowshipping with you! We thank you for your support through what has been one of the hardest years-long periods in our recent history. You supported our programs and events, followed and shared our social posts, and gave us moral support. You helped us maintain and grow initiatives in our fight for equity and justice.

This year’s MLK Celebration theme is a call to action. For those doing the work to continue... and for those who have yet to truly engage, to progress to the next level of action in creating change and equitable systems, organizations, and communities. Justice will take intentionality and a united effort. We hope that as you honor Dr. King’s legacy, you will answer the call to “Do the Work.”

“Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking at Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1968

Thank you to our sponsors. Your support through the years has made it possible for us to continue the fight for justice, equity, and systemic change.

To our wonderful board of directors, your support is both inspirational and encouraging.

And to Team YWCA.GC, you keep me grounded and motivated. Your work ethic, integrity, and commitment to the work is what keeps us great.

Thank you all for each and every way you keep us #OnAMission.

In solidarity,

LaVanda Brown, M.Ed
Executive Director
YWCA Greater Charleston
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WHY WE CELEBRATE

The civil rights movement that spanned 1955 through 1968 was led by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in challenging and compelling the U.S. Congress to dismantle the laws of segregation, discrimination, and racism against African Americans. This pivotal period of history is why we gather in the tri-county area for the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

We encourage you to always remember those 13 years of Dr. King’s leadership, which shaped public policy and changed the course of American history forever. Due to the sacrifices of those who endured physical abuse while sitting-in at lunch counters, boycotting buses and businesses, and marching down highways and byways across the South, today all Americans have been freed to accomplish their goals, living out the American dream.

Make it your personal challenge to never forget:

- The Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1956, which led to the desegregation of public transportation
- The March on Washington in August 1963, which led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act dismantling institutional racism
- Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL and the Selma-to-Montgomery March in 1965, which forged passage of the Voting Rights Act
- Passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968
- Passage of the MLK federal holiday

Make it your personal commitment, each time you celebrate the holiday, to vote in every election, to encourage other citizens to register and vote, and to make voting a priority for people you know and love. Lest we forget, it took generations of men and women to link heritage to hope and action through sacrifice, vision, and personal commitment, leading to passage of the King federal holiday.
YWCA Greater Charleston was founded in 1907. It has been eliminating racism and empowering women across the Charleston region ever since.

The organization played an important role during the civil rights movement in Charleston with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s wife, Coretta Scott King, participating with its members and board in the historic 1969 MUSC hospital strike. By happenstance, YWCA Greater Charleston’s executive director at that time was Mrs. Christine O. Jackson; Coretta Scott King’s first cousin.

In 1972, Mrs. Jackson founded one of the first MLK tributes in America. She was sitting in an evening meeting at the Charleston YWCA in 1968 when she received word of Dr. King’s assassination, shaking her badly. She had last seen him in 1967 when he came to Charleston to speak.

In its first year the tribute consisted of a ball, suggested to her by a YWCA volunteer, Mrs. Margaret Thomas; Mrs. Jackson added a worship service. The pastor of an Alabama church served as the keynote speaker at her invitation. In its second year, the keynote speaker was Dr. King’s father, Martin Luther King, Sr. "I remember Mayor Joe Riley being at that celebration," she says.

In the third year, the ecumenical worship service moved to Morris Street Baptist Church. Eventually, area worship services spread throughout the Charleston region, and in 2020 the ecumenical service began to rotate throughout tri-county churches.

A breakfast for business leaders and professionals became a fixture in 2000, after she walked into Mayor Joe Riley’s office unannounced. Atlee Prince and Spencer Pryor had come up with the idea, and with the mayor’s support, the breakfast was born. Cecelia Roger was its first chair. Mayor Joe Riley still attends the event.

YWCA Greater Charleston continues to make history as it strives to eliminate racism and empower women—not only with its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, but with programs like:

- RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE workshops led monthly by experts nationally renowned for helping communities address institutional racism
- WE 360°, a multi-week workshop series specifically designed to help women entrepreneurs of color overcome barriers in business
- Y GIRLS CODE clubs, financially empowering girls of color by preparing them to enter the high-paying, male-dominated technology field
- WHAT WOMEN BRING, an annual event celebrating women’s leadership in business, community, and culture across South Carolina
Sonepar celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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# 2023 Schedule

1. **MLK Area Worship Service**  
   - 4 PM Sunday, January 8, 2023  
   - Presiding: Rev. Dr. George Kugblenu, Pastor  
   - Emmanuel Baptist Church of James Island

2. **MLK Breakfast Summit**  
   - 7 AM Thursday, January 12, 2023  
   - Keynote: Lou W. Kennedy, CEO, Nephron Pharmaceuticals  
   - Charleston Gaillard Center

3. **MLK Ecumenical Service**  
   - 4 PM Sunday, January 15, 2023  
   - Keynote: Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Temoney, Presiding Elder, Santee District Central Conference  
   - Charity Missionary Baptist Church

4. **MLK Parade**  
   - 10:30 AM Monday, January 16, 2023  
   - Parade Marshal: KJ Kearney, Founder, Black Food Fridays  
   - Downtown Charleston; televised live by NBC WCBD News 2
“We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

The Medical University of South Carolina celebrates the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.
### 2023 Area Worship Service

Presiding: Rev. Dr. George Kugblenu, Pastor | Theme: “Let Freedom Ring”

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2023 ECUMENICAL SERVICE
Presiding: Pastor Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III, Charity Missionary Baptist Church

RECEPTION MUSIC
Divine Strength String Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III, Charity Missionary Baptist Church

OPENING SELECTION
“Lift Every Voice and Sing” by MLK Community Choir

INVOCATION
Dr. Karen Reed-Perrineau: Pastor, St. Paul AME Church

WELCOME
Kennedy Joye Mack, Charity Missionary Baptist Church

REMARKS
The Honorable John Tecklenburg: Mayor, City of Charleston

MUSIC SELECTION
MLK Community Choir

REMARKS
LaVanda Brown: Executive Director, YWCA Greater Charleston

YOUTH ESSAY
Kira Hamrick: Senior, Academic Magnet High School

OCCASION
Trudy B. Grant, Charity Missionary Baptist Church

OFFERTORY APPEAL

OFFERING BLESSING
Deacon, Charity Missionary Baptist Church

YOUTH RECITATION

AWARD PRESENTATION
Nashonda Hunter, Alyssa Richardson: Harvey Gantt Triumph Award Chairs

HONOREE REMARKS
Rev. DeMett Jenkins, International African American Museum

MINISTRY OF DANCE
New Bethel Sounds of Praise

INTRODUCTION
Rev. Dr. Robyn Perrineau Kendrick: Associate Pastor, Society Hill AME Church

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Rev. Dr. Herbert Temoney: Presiding Elder, Santee District Central Conference

CALL TO ACTION
Rabbi Stephanie Alexander, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

CLOSING REMARKS
Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III, Charity Missionary Baptist Church
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The Episcopal churches of the Diocese of South Carolina give thanks for the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and share his mission to seek true justice and equality for all people. We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and welcome you to our inclusive fellowship.

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25
I HAVE A DREAM

that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

South Carolina
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in honor of Sidney Williams, Jr.
LaVanda Brown
in honor of Shirley McGee Brown
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in honor of Mattese Lecque (mother)
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in honor of Bishop Robert L. Perrineau, Sr.
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Councilman Handy Miles, Jr. & Rhonda Miles
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Djuanna M. Brockington
Jasmine Tirado
Joselyn L. Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Jamison
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Rev. Bobby & Sis. Regina Forrest
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2023 AWARD FOUNDERS

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HARVEY GANTT TRIUMPH AWARD

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Alyssa Richardson | Co-Chair
Melanie Collins
Edward Copes
Trudy B. Grant
Danielle Hardee
KJ Kearney

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Sydney Hamer | Co-Chair

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Herbert Drayton
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Marc Gibson
Sonia Hanson
Janet Hart
Danny E. Martin, Jr.
Chalena McIlwain
Victoria Rae Moore
Donald Smith
Kendra Snipe
Christy Tyson

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I HAVE A DREAM

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2023 MLK COMMITTEES

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We proudly support the 51st Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.
Charity Missionary Baptist Church

CONGRATULATIONS

At Charity we are committed to Jesus’ command in Matthew 23:23

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Justice, Mercy, and Faith

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We thank all who made our 51st Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration possible

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We all play a part

Boeing is committed to enriching the communities where our teammates live and work. We are proud to sponsor the YWCA of Greater Charleston’s MLK Day celebration.

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BREAKFAST KEYNOTE

LOU W. KENNEDY
CEO, NEPHRON PHARMACEUTICALS

Lou Kennedy is chief executive officer and owner of Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a certified woman-owned business and global leader in manufacturing opioid-free drugs for pain that produces one billion doses of life-saving medication annually, and Nephron Nitrile, a producer of American-made nitrile gloves created to help shore up America’s medical supply chain. She is also chair of S.C. BIO, a statewide association promoting the life sciences industry, and Governor Henry McMaster’s appointee to the South Carolina Research Authority executive committee, in addition to many other board and leadership roles. Among other honors, she has been named Business Leader of the Year by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and awarded South Carolina’s highest civilian honor: the Order of the Palmetto, bestowed by Governor Nikki R. Haley in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding service.
ECUMENICAL KEYNOTE

REV. DR. HERBERT L. TEMONEY
PRESIDING ELDER, Santee District

A native of Mayesville, South Carolina, Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Temoney currently serves as presiding elder of the Santee District of the Seventh Episcopal AME Church Central South Carolina Annual Conference. Prior to taking on this role, he served as presiding elder of the Wateree District, pastor of Greater St. Luke AME Church in Charleston, and a volunteer chaplain with the Coastal Crisis Chaplainy organization in Charleston. He has also served as a member of the Charleston Illumination Project and as a member of the City of Charleston Mayor’s Clergy Advisory Council. Today he serves on the board of his alma mater, Allen University. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary, and a bachelor’s degree in sociology and social work from Allen University in South Carolina. He has also been awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters by Canaan Bible College for distinguished community service.

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”
-Martin Luther King Jr.

The Charleston County Aviation Authority proudly celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today and every day.

We work to protect the health of the natural resources of the South Carolina coastal plain and ensure a high quality of life for all of the people who live in and love this special place.

www.coastalconserationleague.org
PARADE MARSHAL

KJ KEARNEY
FOUNDER, BLACK FOOD FRIDAYS

This graduate of historically Black college South Carolina State University exploded into the world of advocacy at a young age with the founding his James Beard Award-nominated social media initiative encouraging people to purchase food and drinks from Black-owned restaurants. Since 2020, Black Food Fridays has grown to more than 250,000 organic followers across Instagram and TikTok. KJ has been a featured guest on the hit Food Network show Delicious Mrs. Brown and appeared in the Washington Post, Condé Nast Traveller, Insider magazine, the BBC, and MTV News, among others. He has also worked with top firms like Pepsi, the Black Amazon Employee Network, the Charleston Food + Wine Festival, and the Charleston Area Visitors Bureau, and has been a featured speaker, moderator, or host for SXSW (South by Southwest), SURJ (Standing up for Racial Justice), the Columbia Museum of Art, the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, and Creative Mornings Charleston.
CONGRATULATIONS
FROM THE IAAM FAMILY

REV. DEMETT JENKINS
International African American Museum
Lilly Director of Education and Engagement
for Faith-Based Communities

Located at the historically sacred site of Gadsden’s Wharf, one of the country’s most prolific slave trading ports, the International African American Museum is uniquely positioned to honor the untold stories of the African American journey. Through authentic, empathetic storytelling, the International African American Museum explores the African American experience through the power of place by acknowledging the achievements of Africans and African Americans, exhibiting how their labor, resistance, and ingenuity has shaped every aspect of our world.

OPENING 2023

To learn more or plan your visit: www.iaamuseum.org
A former CEO of the Trident Urban League and administrator for the American Cancer Society’s Best Chance Network Program, the College of Charleston, Charleston County School District, and Charleston Mayor’s Office for Children, Dr. Smith started out as a teacher of English, public speaking, and journalism. Today, she partners with businesses owned by minorities and other entities that impact disadvantaged citizens and their living environments. She is currently providing outreach services for SCDOT’s I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West project, which is projected to impact several minority neighborhoods. Her other community outreach projects have included the 25-year Charleston County Half-Cent Sales Tax project and the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge in 2001-2005. She also managed public and media relations for families of the Emanuel AME Church victims, survivors, and church members, and was a founding member of the African American Leadership Council of Trident United Way.

Rev. Jenkins is proof that the acorn doesn’t fall far from the tree! The granddaughter of the late civil rights activist Esau Jenkins, she currently serves as the International African American Museum’s Lilly Director of Education & Engagement for Faith-Based Communities. Prior to that, she spent more than a decade working for United Family Services’ Shelter for Battered Women before designing and implementing a domestic violence spiritual advocate ministry through University Park Baptist Church. She also served as a chaplain at Emory University Healthcare and a pastoral care coordinator at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital. Today she volunteers her time with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, an organization that responds to deaths, homicides, and other crisis situations with both the Charleston and North Charleston Police Departments. She holds a degree in criminal justice and a master’s degree in divinity with a focus on pastoral care and counseling.
ESSAY PRESENTER

KIRA HAMRICK
MLK BREAKFAST SUMMIT YOUTH ESSAY

A core member of YWCA Greater Charleston’s SheStrong program since her sophomore year, this Academic Magnet High School senior is dedicated to working to improve life for young women through victim advocacy, sex education, event organization, and donation drives. Among her goals for her life are advocating for trans women, young mothers, and victims of assault to create a community where women can reach out and speak openly about gender inequality.

Kira served as a key part of SheStrong’s YWCA GC 2022 Stand Against Racism and 2021 Week Without Violence social media initiatives. She is highly involved in her school’s Neurodivergent / Disabled Club, LGBTQ+ Club, Asian Awareness Club, and Tabletop Gaming club, while leading games of Dungeons and Dragons for teens at the Charleston County Public Library.

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ESSAY PRESENTER

JYNESIS LEE
MLK ECUMENICAL SERVICE YOUTH ESSAY

The founder of The Protection Project SC, a peer-to-peer distribution hotline for emergency contraception and sexual health resources, Jynesis also serves as a student activist for the EC4EC (Emergency Contraception for Every Campus) advisory committee, an engagement intern for the Carolina Abortion Fund, and a two-time fellow for the Advocates for Youth: Condom Collective.

Jynesis is also a member of the NAACP chapter and the Public Health Alliance chapter of Claflin University, where she is pursuing a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry with an eye to becoming a registered nurse specializing in neonatal intensive care.

In the meantime, this Summerville native serves as a senator in Claflin’s Student Government Association and intends to continue educating young people.
The time is always right to do the right thing

— Martin Luther King, Jr.
Lift every voice and sing
‘Til Earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning 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 that hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet

Come to the place
on which our fathers sighed
We have come over a way
That with tears have been watered
We have come, treading our path
Through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
‘till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has 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
According to the Library of Congress, this song has its roots in African American hymns dating from the early 20th century, and was first used as a protest song in 1945, when striking tobacco workers in Charleston, South Carolina sang it on their picket line.

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS:

Oh, deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We’ll walk hand in hand
We’ll walk hand in hand

We shall all be free some day

CHORUS

We shall all be free
We shall all be free
We shall all be free some day

CHORUS

We are not afraid
We are not afraid
We are not afraid today

CHORUS

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

The SC AFL-CIO congratulates YWCA Greater Charleston on another successful Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.
True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

WELCOME KEYNOTE SPEAKER,
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Marlon E. Kimpson is the attorney responsible for this communication.
We lead best when we lead together.

The Citadel is proud to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy of principled leadership. Learn more about our mission to promote a culture of inclusion and equality at citadel.edu/together