



"In his short life, Dr. King changed the world- as did those whose names are preserved forever on the Civil Rights Memorial. Now, around the world, we see changes that are making Dr. King's words of "justice and righteousness" come true. They were more than a dream. They were a vision of the future."

President George Bush  
January 12, 1990

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission adopted "Living the Dream" as the official theme for the first national celebration in 1986. The theme expresses the message and inspiration Dr. King generated among Americans in his dream and what that dream awakened in America.

## LIVING THE DREAM

"A day to celebrate the life and dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. A day to reaffirm the American ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity for all.

A day for love not hate, for understanding not anger, for peace not war.

A day for the family; to share together, to reach out to relatives and friends, and to mend broken relationships.

A day when the community rids itself of the barriers which divide it and comes together as one.

A day when people of all races, religions, classes, and stations in life put aside their differences and join in a spirit of togetherness.

A day for our nation to pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. who awakened in us the best qualities of the American spirit.

A day for nations of the world to cease all violent actions, seek nonviolent solutions, and demonstrate that peace is not just a dream, but a real possibility, if only one day.

If for only one day, each of us serves as a "drum major for justice and peace," then we will bring to life the inspiring vision of freedom which Martin Luther King, Jr. "dreamed."

Living the Dream  
January 20, 1986