



STATE OF NEW YORK
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**THE STATE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES
THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALBANY ON JANUARY 17**

The Office of General Services announced today that an observance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held at 9:00 a.m. on January 17, 2011 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The memorial provides time for reflection and celebration on the 82nd anniversary of Dr. King's birth. The theme of this year's event, which is free and open to the public, is "Remember! Celebrate! Act!"

Dr. Eugene Callender, a prominent minister and long-time community leader, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Callender has served on five presidential commissions for five United States presidents. In addition, Dr. Callender has served as the Commissioner of the New York State Office for the Aging and as a member of the New York State Board of Parole. He is currently a Leader in Residence at the Colin Powell Center at the City College of New York.

Tributes to Dr. King's legacy; musical selections from Capital Region schoolchildren and church groups; drama and dance performances, video presentations and more will be featured in the event. The program will be televised by the State University of New York's New York Network, and will be broadcast statewide on numerous Time Warner stations and in New York City on CUNY's channel 75.

Following the Memorial Observance, the "Beloved Community March", sponsored by the City of Albany, will begin at the Plaza concourse entrance on Madison Avenue. The march will conclude at the King Monument in Lincoln Park with a wreath laying ceremony.

In addition to the formal program, guests will enjoy an exhibit featuring hundreds of essays and pieces of artwork submitted by students from nearly 100 schools statewide. Students used their creativity to express their interpretation of Dr. King's principles of nonviolence in their artwork and to write essays about how young people can embrace those principles embodied by Dr. King throughout the entire year.

During the observance, children can take part in the “Kids for King Showcase” area which will feature storytellers, face painters and a craft table that will allow them to create birthday cards in honor of Dr. King to be sent to the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

A special commemorative birthday cake depicting Dr. King’s life experiences will be shared with visitors courtesy of Price Chopper Supermarkets.

Additionally, those in attendance can stop by the “Be a King” volunteer fair which will showcase numerous volunteer organizations hoping to stimulate “a call to service” and encourage participants to give back to their communities.

More information is available online at www.nyking.org.

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