



## Office of General Services

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### **Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. To Be Celebrated In Albany on January 18**

#### ***Grammy Winner Dorinda Clark-Cole to Perform at Annual MLK Memorial Observance***

RoAnn Destito, Office of General Services Commissioner today announced an observance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on January 18, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The public is invited to attend the free program in celebration of the 87th anniversary of Dr. King's birth. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"Each year I am always impressed by the talented musicians and performers who come to this annual event and pay tribute to Dr. King, and this year is no different with Grammy-award winner Dorinda Clark-Cole, piano prodigy Shuan Hern Lee, blues guitarist Guy Davis, jazz pianist George Caldwell, and the Capital District Community Voices of Praise among those taking the stage," Commissioner Destito said. "I join Governor Cuomo in inviting everyone to come in person or watch the live video of this important New York State tradition at the Empire State Plaza of celebrating the life of Dr. King. He was a champion of civil rights, equality, and peaceful social change, and each year we gather on this date to rededicate ourselves to keeping his dream alive."

This year's celebration will include a special performance by national recording artist Dorinda Clark-Cole. Clark-Cole is a three-time Grammy-award winning gospel singer who has been called "the Rose of Gospel," "the Church Girl," and "Evangelist." She is a member of The Clark Sisters and daughter of gospel legend Mattie Moss-Clark.

A 20-year retired veteran of the U.S. Air Force who currently serves as vice president of resource development and strategic partnerships for the United Way of Delaware, the Reverend Dr. John G. Moore Sr. will be the keynote speaker at this year's observance. Moore has spoken in many schools, colleges, churches, and organizational gatherings throughout the nation and has been instrumental in keeping the dream of Dr. King vibrantly alive in the hearts of audiences of all diverse backgrounds for more than 20 years.

For the second year in a row, this year's memorial observance will include the presentation of King video moments, focusing on "King The Man," "The Dr. King Memorial Sculpture: Empire State Plaza," and "The Civil Rights Movement: A Freedom Fighter's Story."

The event will also include a number of theatrical and musical tributes to Dr. King from local and regional performers, including a performance by jazz pianist George Caldwell and members of the University at Buffalo music department's jazz ensemble, which he directs. There will also be a performance by 13-year-old international piano prodigy Shuan Hern Lee and by blues guitarist Guy Davis, the son of Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis.

Doors will open at 8:30 a.m., and there will be a musical prelude performed by the Capital District Community Voices of Praise. The formal program will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The program will be televised live statewide with the assistance of the New York State Media Services Center, Time Warner Cable, Mid-Hudson Cable, and CUNY-TV.

Following the formal program, the City of Albany "Beloved Community March" 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.

There will also be a number of additional activities taking place on the Empire State Plaza concourse, including:

- Empire State "Be A King" Volunteer Fair
- Empire State Dr. King Quilts Display
- Dr. King Statewide Children's Art and Essay Display
- Commemorative Dr. King Birthday Cupcakes

To honor Dr. King's message throughout the year, a number of events are held to remind people of his vision for the community. These include a December food drive, a career fair on March 30; and a winter literacy drive to collect books for schoolchildren statewide.

More information and a live webcast of the event is available online at [www.nyking.org](http://www.nyking.org).

For up-to-the-minute information on the celebration follow @NYSMLK on Twitter and like our New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance facebook page.

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