



AMERICANISM

DECEASED JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 1, 1752 - BETTY ROSS, DESIGNER OF THE U.S. FLAG



JANUARY 11, 1755- Alexander Hamilton was an American military officer, statesman, and Founding Father who served as the first United States secretary of the treasury from 1789 to 1795. Born out of wedlock in Charlestown, Nevis, Hamilton was orphaned as a child and taken in by a prosperous merchant.



JANUARY 15, 1929- Martin Luther King, Jr., was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father has served from then until the present, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as co-pastor. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.



This is what the VFW wrote about Dr. Martin Luther King last year (2022)

Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The VFW encourages everyone to celebrate the “day on” by engaging their communities

January 17, 2022

WASHINGTON — On Monday, Jan. 17, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary will join the millions of Americans in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a pioneer who would ultimately lay down his life for the cause of civil rights.

“It is so important for all of us to remember Dr. King,” said VFW National Commander Fritz Mihelcic. “As veterans who have fought for others freedom overseas, we uniquely understand the need for peace and justice. In his own way, Dr. King fought so that ‘We the People’ may have the same peace, fairness, and equality amongst all of us, not just some, here at home.”

Born on Jan. 15, 1929, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a minister and activist who championed the cause of civil rights from 1955 until he was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The Civil Rights Act of 1968 just days after his death solidified his life’s work in fighting for social justice and against discrimination.

Since passing into law as a federal holiday in 1983, the observance of Dr. King’s birthday on the third Monday each January has served as a day of service, ‘a day on, not a day off.’ In a salute to Dr. King, the VFW encourages its members, the Auxiliary, supporters and all Americans to honor his legacy through volunteerism in their communities across the country.

“By getting out into our local communities, recognizing, learning from and serving one another, and treating everyone with understanding, dignity and respect, we carry on Dr. King’s dream of our nation living out the true meaning of its creed,” said Mihelcic, quoting King’s iconic “I Have A Dream” speech.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.”

Note: Martin Luther King/Civil Rights Day is always celebrated on the third Monday in January.

JANUARY 30, 1882-FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, 32ND U.S. PRESIDENT. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, often referred to by his initials FDR, was an American politician and attorney who served as the 32nd president of the United States from 1933 until his death in 1945.



FAMOUS QUOTES TO BRING IN THE NEW YEAR!

“Cheers to a new year and another chance to get it right.”

Oprah Winfrey



"Every man should be born again on the first of January. Start with a fresh page."

Henry Ward Beecher



Henry Ward Beecher was a renowned clergyman, author, anti-slavery activist, and reformer in the 19th century. At a time when ministers played a prominent role in American life, Beecher connected with a generation of followers made uneasy by the rapid progress of industrialization. Born: June 24, 1813, Litchfield, CT

Died: March 8, 1887, Queens, New York, NY

Organization founded: American Woman Suffrage Association

Siblings: Harriet Beecher Stowe, Catharine Beecher.

I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays. With our auxiliary year half over, we have to try to finish as strong as we started the year. Don't forget to Promote #AuxiliaryPatriotism, use our website at vfwauxiliary.org/resources to the "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" help sheet and video.



For more information, visit vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/americanism.

As you start this New Year, please remember "My reason to live, is my reason to give of myself" and you will have a more satisfying and successful year!

Take Care,

Buddy Nicholas, NH VFW Auxiliary Chairman (2022-2023)