



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Honors Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today honored the slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a ceremony in the rotunda in the State Capitol Building. Governor Richardson joined other state leaders including Congressman Tom Udall; Director of the New Mexico Martin Luther King Commission, Jo Ella Redmon; President of the Santa Fe Chapter of the NAACP, Reggie Whitehead; Director of the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs, Dr. Harold Bailey and state legislators in proclaiming January 15, 2006 Martin Luther King Jr. Day throughout New Mexico in honor of Dr. King's Birthday.

Governor Richardson's prepared remarks:

I am honored to be here for this annual observance for one of our greatest leaders and a true inspiration for all Americans.

It's fitting that we honor Dr. King today – as we prepare to welcome the Legislature for a historic session that will focus on creating opportunities for children and improving the lives of working New Mexico families.

Dr. King's dream of equality, justice, freedom, and opportunity for all people is alive and well in New Mexico. As long as I'm Governor, we will never forget Dr. King's legacy.

With that, I will read a proclamation honoring the life and accomplishments of Dr. King.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of America's greatest heroes, rousing the conscience of a nation and inspiring in many the courage to stand up to injustice, bigotry and fear; and

WHEREAS, his eloquent, powerful words, indomitable spirit and commitment to nonviolent protest set a moving example of the possibilities for peaceful change through unity and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, today, in our own diverse communities, we as New Mexicans continue working to realize Dr. King's dream of equality, justice, freedom, and opportunity for all people; and

WHEREAS, as we join the nation in celebrating the life of Dr. King, we honor his memory by reaffirming our dedication to upholding human rights and overcoming hatred and intolerance through understanding;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim January 15, 2006 as:

“Martin Luther King, Jr. Day”

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Done at the Executive Office this 3rd day of January, 2006.

Attest:

Rebecca Vigil-Giron, Secretary of State

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson, Governor