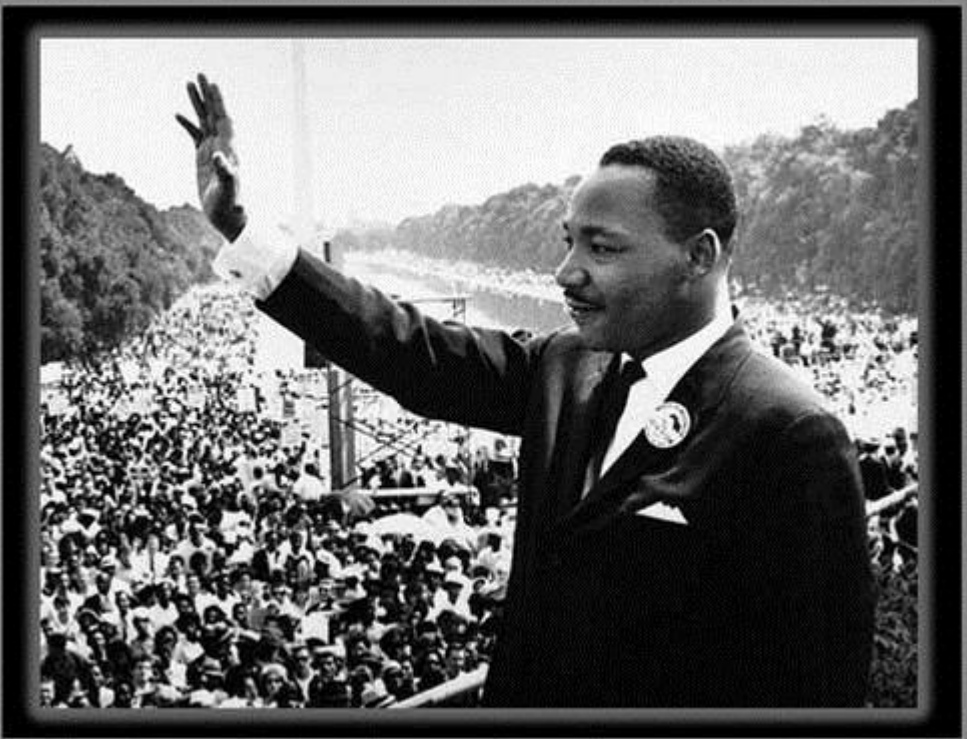


Birthday Remembrances



There is much written in our society about “taking the first step” in creating change.

As we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader and Nobel laureate, I cannot help but think how difficult it must have been for him to take the first step, to lead the movement for equality and justice in America. Against insurmountable odds during this period in our history, he took the first step to courageously expose our myth as a nation of freedom and justice for all.

He rose to fame for his passionate, but nonviolent, methods of protest against racism. His themes from the Bible raised the collective conscience and struck the hearts of many who earlier felt that society was as it should be: with many of its’ citizens existing without basic civil rights. Throughout his life, he had many outstanding achievements and many struggles that defined his place in history.

Dr. King was an inspirational person of faith who grew up in a Christian family. He was a master orator who preached, educated, and informed. He answered spite with kindness, violence with words, and hate with love.

As we celebrate, we pay tribute to Dr. King and the legacy he provides to all generations.

*“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Edna Powell
Chief Business Officer*