



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE BACKS CREATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING NATIONAL HOLIDAY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The following is the text of Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) before the Judiciary Committee:

"It is a pleasure to participate in hearings on the proposal to designate the birthday of Martin Luther King a public holiday. I would like to welcome our distinguished guests. I am especially pleased to see Mrs. Coretta King here today.

Dr. King was a remarkable American, a man of vision whose dream of equality and brotherhood moved an entire generation. His efforts to eliminate prejudice and hatred in America continue to inspire millions of Americans.

Despite the obstacles and hatred Dr. King encountered, he stuck to his belief in nonviolence. In his struggle for brotherhood and opportunity, Dr. King held true to his philosophy of love and tolerance. He showed us that lasting social change can be achieved through peaceful protest. He reminded us that, as Americans, we must be constantly vigilant in preserving our constitutional heritage of freedom.

Dr. King's dream was not simply one of racial harmony. His vision was primarily American. His goals were those of our founding fathers--of establishing for all Americans the equal right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

Because of Martin Luther King's unique contributions to American life, I believe it is fitting that we honor him by designating his birthday a national holiday. It is an honor to co-sponsor this bill.

Support for a Martin Luther King national holiday continues to grow throughout the country. Thirteen states and a number of major cities already have designated Dr. King's birthday a time of special observance. In the 95th Congress, over 100 members of the House of Representatives co-sponsored this bill. Work has renewed in the 96th Congress. I hope that a year from now, January 15 will be celebrated in the memory of Dr. King and his vision."