

30 Milestones in the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, who served as Chair, Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission and Founding President of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, is quoted as saying:

“As a nation chooses its heroes and heroines, a nation interprets its history and shapes its destiny. The commemoration of the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. can help America realize its true destiny as the global model for democracy, economic and social justice, and as the first nonviolent society in human history.”

1.	1929	Born in Atlanta
2.	1948	Graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta
3.	1951	Graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary
4.	1954	Supreme Court ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional (Brown v. Board of Education) Selected as pastor for Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.
5.	1955	Supreme Court ordered desegregation of public schools Earned Ph.D. from Boston University
6.	1955	Rosa Parks is arrested on Montgomery bus Led protest involving Rosa Parks, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott began
7.	1956	Supreme Court ruled bus segregation unconstitutional
8.	1957	Became president of new Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
9.	1957	Featured on <i>Time</i> Magazine cover
10.	1957	Delivered his first national address, "Give Us The Ballot" Congress passed Civil Rights Act of 1957
11.	1959	Visited India to study nonviolent tactics, met Gandhi's family
12.	1960	President Eisenhower signed Civil Rights Act of 1960 covering voter registration
13.	1961	Negotiated for Freedom Riders Segregation in interstate travel formally banned Made his only visit to Seattle
14.	1963	Wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
15.	1963	Met with President John F. Kennedy

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16.	1963	Delivered "I Have a Dream" speech at Lincoln Memorial to 250,000 people at the March on Washington
17.	1964	<i>Time Magazine "Man of the Year"</i> Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed into law Received Nobel Peace Prize, youngest person ever
18.	1965	1965 Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson Marched from Selma to Montgomery and was arrested
19.	1966	Led demonstrations in Chicago
20.	1966	Led "March against Fear" from Memphis to Jackson
21.	1968	Organized (with the SCLC) the "Poor People's Campaign" on Washington Led striking sanitation workers in a march in Memphis
22.	1968	Delivered his last speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop" Assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis More than 300,000 people marched with his coffin through Atlanta
23.	1977	Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter
24.	1983	Dr. King's birthday declared a federal holiday by President Ronald Reagan
25.	1985	Lebanon hosted its first M.L.K. Celebration
26.	1986	January 20, 1986 – First national King Holiday Observed.
27.	1992	November 3, 1992 – After a coalition of citizens for an Arizona King Holiday launched successful protest and boycott campaigns, the people of Arizona passed referendum establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. state holiday.
28.	1994	August 23, 1994 – President Clinton signed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act, expanding the mission of the holiday as a day of community service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives.
29.	2004	Awarded a Congressional Gold Medal
30.	2011	The MLK Monument on the National Mall was opened to the public.