

Honoring Rev Dr Martin Luther King column



From Ev Dove <evdove03@yahoo.com>

To sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

Date 2024-01-15 06:59

Open Letter to MLK

-- Evelyn Dove Coleman

Dear Rev. Dr. MLK:

We honor you for all you did to help our nation and world. You could have just preached at your church on Sundays and lived your life quietly. But you cared so much about your greater community that you sacrificed your time, freedom, and ultimately your life for your fellow man.

You believed that the path to freedom and equality should be nonviolent. I wish more people believed that. Your speeches are archived and should be widely distributed for those who so quickly turn to violence today.

Your "I Have A Dream" speech is transcribed here: <https://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/122701268/i-have-a-dream-speech-in-its-entirety>. In part, it says "Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children"

Dr. King, I wish I could tell you that your dream has no longer been deferred. As Langston Hughes wrote in his poem "Harlem," delaying goals impacts individuals and communities. A deferred dream does sag like a heavy load. upon communities. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46548/harlem>

Hughes wrote in the 1950's and King spoke in the 1960's. In 2023, Congressman Bennie Thompson recited "Aluta Continua" as he left the NAACP Image Awards stage as an honoree. The rest of that saying is "Victoria e' Certa." It means the struggle continues but victory is certain.

Also in 2023, I wrote in my column that "people cannot become desensitized to violence." I implored readers to speak up and say that violence of any kind is not okay. We honor Dr. King and we will continue to carry the banner of equality, freedom, and justice. <https://www.carolinaalumnireview.com/carolinaalumnireview/barjournal2023/MobilePagedReplica.action?pm=2&folio=36#pg36>

Evelyn Dove-Coleman

<http://www.pathchoicepastoralcounseling.weebly.com>

