

## Birth Date

# Rallies Honor Dr. King

Rallies, memorial services and other ceremonies are planned in many parts of the nation today to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the late Nobel laureate and civil rights leader.

While many mayors and governors officially designated the day in his honor, his widow, Coretta, said she was still working to make him the first black American honored with a national holiday.

King, who was slain by snipers bullets in April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn., would have been 43 years old today.

### Rallies

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, who succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, planned to speak at a rally in Detroit tonight. Other rallies were scheduled in Newark and Washington, D.C.

School children were given the day off yesterday in many cities including St. Louis, San Francisco and King's home town, Atlanta. Recordings of the civil rights leader's speeches were broadcast over radio and in public places.

In St. Francisville, La., where the school board refused to dismiss classes in King's honor, 600 students walked out of a high school.

Permits for commemorative marches in Ayden, N.C., today and tomorrow were refused by Police Chief James Ross without comment yesterday, but SCLC leaders said the marches would go on anyway.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING**  
Birthday today

### Rock Concert

Mrs. King spent yesterday in New York City, where she and singer Harry Belafonte led a rock concert for 2000 inmates at the Adolescent Remand Shelter. She told them, "Don't lose respect for yourself. This may be a new beginning for you — a new life."

In Denver, drill team members at Manual high school have been standing watch at a bust of King throughout the week. Pupils at a San Francisco junior high school planted 23 trees as a living memorial to King.

A morning ceremony was scheduled today in the nation's capital, with Mayor Walter Washington and the federal district's delegate Walter E. Fauntroy to attend.

### Free Show

Newark Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson will conduct a memorial on the steps of city hall and a seven-hour program of free entertainment and movies at the city's symphony hall follows.

The governors of Illinois, Connecticut and Virginia proclaimed official observance of "Martin Luther King Day" today. Clovis Campbell, Arizona's first black state senator, introduced a resolution in the senate seeking an annual statewide observance for King on Jan. 15.

Some cities mark King's birthday on Monday. In New York that day, a silent march is to highlight an interfaith observance at Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem.