

# DR. KING HONORED QUIETLY OVER U.S.

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41st Anniversary of Birth  
Is Observed in Religious  
Services and Speeches

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By MARTIN ARNOLD

The 41st anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated quietly across the nation yesterday.

In some cities, including New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Mo., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Harrisburg, Pa., schools were closed.

Mayor Lindsay allowed New York City workers to take the day off and charge it to their leave time, but frigid temperatures cut down the attendance at meetings and services here for the murdered Negro civil rights leader.

Several Governors, including Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, Kenneth M. Curtis of Maine, and Frank Licht of Rhode Island, declared Martin Luther King Day in their states.

The Illinois Legislature designated a "commemorative holiday"—providing not for the closing of schools, but for part of the school day to be devoted to the study of Dr. King's works. Memorial assemblies, exhibits and classroom discussions were held in Chicago and suburban schools.

Across the country there were church services.

In Memphis, where Dr. King

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was shot to death on April 4, 1968, no official observance was held.

In Atlanta, an overflow crowd of 400 persons packed Dr. King's church, Ebenezer

Baptist, to hear the city's Mayor, Sam H. Massell Jr., praise the civil rights leader as "a leader of men, the conscience of the nation."

Dr. King's widow, Coretta, his four children and his father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., attended.

Dr. King's body was moved last Tuesday from Southview Cemetery to a crypt near the church. The church, the crypt and his home are to be part of Atlanta's new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, which was officially dedicated yesterday.

Other speakers at yesterday's service included Dr. King's father; the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Dr. Benjamin Mays, the new black president of the Atlanta school board and presi-



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**SINGING 'WE SHALL OVERCOME':** Mrs. Coretta King, center, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., leading friends and relatives in the civil rights hymn during a memorial service at her husband's crypt in

Atlanta yesterday. Among those in the front row are Dr. King's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr., at left. Flanking Mrs. King Jr. are two of her children, Martin Luther King 3d, at left, and Dexter King.

dent emeritus of Morehouse College.

In Maine, a 146-year-old house that was once used to shelter blacks fleeing the South on the "underground railroad" was dedicated as the state's first Afro-American Center. It is now on the campus of Bowdoin College, in Brunswick.

The two Massachusetts Senators paid tribute to Dr. King in New England observances. In a statement read before the state legislature, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat, said, "This is a day for all Americans to pause in honor of the works and ordeals of one of the nation's most honored citizens."

Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican, addressing a joint session of the legislature, said that Dr. King's message was simply "love for his fellow man."

In New Jersey, classes were dismissed in Newark, Elizabeth, Englewood, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway, Paterson, Hackensack and several other cities, mostly with large black populations.

In California, public schools were closed in Oakland, Berkeley, Sausalito and Emeryville, and the San Francisco Board of Education proclaimed a "Human Relations Day."

Nowhere was there violence, as ceremonies of one sort or another were held in cities across the country, including Buffalo, Chicago, Syracuse, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Louisville, Ky., Burlington, Vt., and Austin and San Antonio, Tex., where the City Council passed a resolution proclaiming King Day.

The day went virtually unnoticed, however, in Richmond, Va., in Florida and in Denver.

Gov. Claude R. Kirk Jr. of Florida had been asked to declare a legal holiday. He referred the request to W. Samuel Tucker Jr., the Secretary of Administration, who said the state recognized only eight legal holidays.

"Any other legal holidays are declared only for emergencies or for unusual circumstances. Therefore, we will be unable to accommodate you," he told supporters of the holiday request.