

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Good morning, UNAN! Today is Friday, January 18th, 2019.

Each year on the third Monday of January, Americans celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Junior). Dr. King was an African American civil rights leader who fought for black people to have equal treatment in the United States in the 1960s. His birthday has become a national holiday, so people can remember what he did for America every year.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1929. During that time, black people and white people were segregated in the United States. Blacks were not allowed to go to the same schools as whites, eat in the same restaurant, or even drink from the same water fountain. Dr. King did not like segregation because it treated black people unfairly. He started to fight against segregation. He wanted equality for whites and blacks alike.

Dr. King gave many speeches, wrote books and led many protests. He often had to go to prison, even though he was protesting peacefully. His most famous speech was in 1963, and it is called the “I Have a Dream” speech. He famously said “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Unfortunately, he did not live to see his dream come true. Five years later, in 1968, Dr. King was shot and killed. He was only 39 years old.

