



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Western New York Healthcare System
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA WESTERN NY HEALTHCARE CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

VA Western New York Healthcare System will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a ceremony, Friday, January 16, 2009 at 11:30am in Freedom Hall, room 301 at the Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue. Pastor Betty Williams, who served in the US Air Force, will speak about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dee L. Perry will deliver Dr. King's historical speech "I have a dream" and musical entertainment will be provided by Darcel Blue, a local gospel singer.

On January 20, 1986, America observed the first national holiday commemorating Dr. King's birthday. In 2009, we celebrate the 23rd anniversary of that date and 40 years after his passing, Dr. King's birthday has become not only a day of celebration and remembrance but also a day of service. During his lifetime, Dr. King sought to forge common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, he encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service to others, he realized, was the great equalizer. The event is free and open to the public.

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