



Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Event

January 12, 2006
Rockville, Maryland
Parklawn Conference Rooms D& E

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

by

Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director, Indian Health Service

Good afternoon. It is certainly a pleasure to be here today to help honor one of our nation's great leaders, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. As a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, I have great respect and a deep appreciation for the obstacles that Dr. King faced, and overcame, in promoting equal rights and opportunities for all Americans. He fought with words more powerful than any weapons, and inspired others with hope and pride, rather than anger and despair. His dignity and courage remain an eternal example for the rest of us to follow, as we attempt to further the cause of human rights.

It is an example that has been set by other great Americans as well, such as the recently departed Rosa Parks, whose quiet courage was heard around the world. When she refused to take a back seat to anyone, she became a kindred spirit with Tecumseh, a great Shawnee leader, who once wisely advised, "show respect for all men, but grovel to no one."

It is now my pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, Mr. Harry E. Johnson, Sr., Esquire. Mr. Johnson is president of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation, and the Immediate Past National President for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

The text is the basis of Dr. Grim's oral remarks at the Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Event in Rockville, Maryland, on January 12, 2006. It should be used with the understanding that some material may have been added or omitted during presentation.

Mr. Johnson earned his bachelor's degree in political science at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He has completed graduate studies in Public Administration at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and earned his doctor of jurisprudence from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. A board member of the National Big Brothers - Big Sisters and member of the One Hundred Black Men of America, Mr. Johnson considers community service a civic duty. Among his professional affiliations are the National Bar Association, American Bar Association, NAACP, and Boy Scouts of America, among others.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Johnson.

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