Good afternoon

We gather here today to celebrate the life of the reverend dr martin Luther king Jr.

I was a civil rights worker in 1965 and 1966 working for driking.

But first I need to start with bill Russell, besides being a great basketball player he was a great man.

I was a 9 year old growing up in Boston. .bill taught me many things.honesty, integrity teamwork and most important, to be color blind. For bill Russell said if he were born in Africa, he would be able to stay in most hotels north of the mason dixon line.

But since he was an American citizen, he could not.

For in the 50's and before. hotels were segregated..

red auerbach, his white coach, did what all great coaches do, you keep your star player happy.

Russell was unhappy, for after winning two world championships, he could not stay in the same hotel with his white teammates,

In the 8 NBA cities the Celtics played in.

Red and bill decided to change that. They called numerous hotels, and eventually found 8 that would accept K.C. jones and bill Russell along with the white Celtics.

But bili had one other condition; the hotels would have to accept all American negroes.

bill russell the 1st civil rights activist I ever knew. bill russell my hero. so the next time you stay in ft wayne indiana, Rochester n.y., syracuse n.y. or new york city

make sure you say thank you to bill russell MY HERO.

were dr king here today, he would not want a national holiday that honored him alone.

he would want to include all those who lost their lives on the road to freedom.

some like dr. king, medgar evars, jimmie lee jackson, and malcolm x gave their lives working for FREEDOM and EQUALITY.

others like travon martin, michael brown, addie mae collins, and cynthia wesley were murdered

murdered due to the color of their skin.

for dr king told me in 1965 that those who have died.

THEY DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

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for with each death we are getting closer to the freedom day. *****

i was a civil rights worker in 1965 and 1966 working for dr king. my job consisted of 3 tasks.

1 registering black folks to vote. 2 attempting to desegregate restaurants.

3 and most importantly spreading the words,

and ideas of dr king.

but before i could work for dr king, i had to be NON-VIOLENT. if i were beat, i had to be NON-VIOLENT.

if i were slapped on the cheek, i gladly turned the other cheek, i could not fight back physically, but i did fight back verbally.

and even if i were being tarred and feathered VIOLENT.

I HAD TO BE NON-

and if the unthinkable of all unthinkables, they were murdering me, then and especially then I HAD TO BE NON-VIOLENT.

dr king told me to sing an old negro spiiritual, one the slaves sang when they were being tortured or killed.

OH FREEDOM OH FREEDOM OH FREEDOM OVER ME OVER ME AND BEFORE I'D BE A SLAVE YOU COULD JUST BURY ME IN MY GRAVE AND GO HOME TO MY LORD AND BE FREE AND BE FREE * 1 miles the civil rights worker of the 60's had two weapons. NON-VIOLENCE AND OUR FREEDOM SONGS.

as a freedom worker said if you cant sing sing louder.

by being npn-violent we had the moral superiority knowing the jim crow laws and segregation were wrong!!

our freedom songs gave us our strength on the picket lines or at the lunch counters when the police attacked.

lets go back to the 60's

for the first time man could leave this planet and as he circled the earth in his space capsule

he could not see any lines that showed countries

no religeons were discernable from space

he could not see black people, white people red people, or yellow people.

but there were life signs from planet earth there was one race

THE HUMAN RACE

nelson mandela spends many years in jail and he has an epiphany. the liberation of the black southafricana will only come about with the liberation of the white southafricana.

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one country one people one race THE HUMAN RACE

lets go back to 1963

less than 3 weeks after the march on washington, little girls do what little girls do on sunday morning they go to church

A BOMB AN EXPLOSION 4 dead 20 injured when i say the name anne frank, most know of the little jewish girl

who was never able to live free because she lived under nazi rule.

but when i say birmingham sept 15th 1963 how many of you know of this bombing.if you do raise your hands.

how many of you know the names of the girls who died that day. if you do raise your hands.

lets remember these girls by saying their names.

lets everybody say ADDIE MAE COLLINS

lets everybody say DENISE MCNAIR

lets everybody say CAROL ROBERTSON

lets everybody say CYNTHIA WESLEY

3 days later dr king did a eulogy for 3 of the girls who died that day

"this afternoon we gather in the quiet of this sanctuary to pay our last tribute of respect to these 3 beautiful children of GOD they entered the stage of history just a few years ago and in the brief years they were privileged to act on this mortal stage they played their parts exceedingly well. now the curtain falls. they move thru the exit.

the drama of their earthly life comes to a close.

they are now committed back to that eternity from whence they came.

these children UNOFFENDING INNOCENT BEAUTIFUL were the victims of one of the most vicious, heinous crimes ever committed against humanity and yet THEY DIED NOBLY they are the matryed heroines of a holy crusade for FREEDOM and HUMAN

they are the matryed heroines of a holy crusade for FREEDOM and HUMAN DIGNITY.

and so this afternoon in a real sense they have something to say to each of us, in their deaths.

they have something to say to every minister of the gospel who has remained silent behind the safe security of stained glass windows. they have something to say to every politician who has fed his constituents the stale bread of hatred and the spoiled

meat of racism.they have something to say to a federal government that has compromised with the undemocratics processes of southern dixiecrats and the blatant hypocrisy of right wing northern republicans.

they have something to say to every negro who passively accepts the system of segregation

and stands on the sidelines in the midst of the MIGHTY STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

they say to each of us that we must substitute courage for caution they say to us that we must be concerned not merely about WHO murdered them but the system the way of life

and the philosophy which produced these murders their deaths say to us that we must work passionately and unrelentlingly

to make the american dream a reality. THEY DID NOT DIE IN VAIN GOD still has a way of wringing good out of evil history has proven over and over again that unmerited suffring is redemptive

the innocent blood of these little girls may serve as the redemptive force that brings new light to this dark city

the holy scripture says A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM the deaths of these little children may lead our whole southland from the low road of mans inhumanity to man

to the high road of peace and brotherhood. these tragic deaths may lead our nation to substitute an aristocracy of character

for an aristocracy of color. the spilt blood of the innocent girls may cause the whole citizenry of birmingham to transform the negative extremes of a dark past into the positive extermes of a bright future. indeed this tragic event may cause the white south to come to terms with its conscience and so in spite of the darkness of this hour. we must not despair we must not be bitter. nor must we harbor the desire to retaliate with violence.

we must not lose faith in our white brothers, somehow we must believe that the most misguided among them can learn to respect the dignity and the worth of all human personality.

then dr king speaks to the parents of the deceased children.
YOUR CHILDREN DID NOT LIVE LONG BUT THEY LIVED WELL
the quantity of their lives was disturbingly small, but the quality of their
lives was magnificently big

where they died and what they were doing when death came will remain a marvelous tribute to each of you and an eternal epitaph to each of them. then dr king reads some shakespearian lines from hamlet

GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCESSES MAY THE FLIGHT OF ANGELS TAKE THEE TO THY ETERNAL REST

who was dr king

dr king was born in atlanta georgia on jan 15th, 1929.his birth name was michael king jr. his grandfather, a.d williams, was a rural minister. in 1893 a.d.williams moves to atlanta georgia to become the pastor of the ebenezar baptist church which had 13 members. under a.d. williams leadership the church thrives. but in 1931 a.d. williams dies. his son in law, michael king sr becomes the new pastor. in honor of the german protestant religious leader, martin luther, michael king sr changes his name to matin luther king sr and in time his son also changes his name to the name we know and love MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

on dec 1st 1955 rosa parks boards a bus and when the bus driver tells her to move to the back she refuses, YES YES

right on sister that night e.d. nixon, the local naacp leader and dr king meet to plan a city wide bus boycott AND THE PEOPLE WALKED for 382 days and they won yes yes a negro could stand or sit anywhere on those buses.

A VICTORY FOR NON-VIOLENCE

due to the victory in montgomery the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was founded by the rev ralph abernathy, dr king 60 local ministers and civil rights activists in jan. 1957.the next year SCLC has 20 mass meetings whose purpose was to prepare people to register to vote. from 1955 until his death in 1968 dr king lived for one thing SOCIAL JUSTICE its said in many words. INTEGRATION EQUALITY FREEDOM

great men, like dr king was, have the ability to take the most complicated issues of the time and explain it in a way which even i could understand.he explained it was like 100 yard dash where the white man had a 40 yard headstart.to even the playing field we needed affirmitive action in JOBS HOUSING AND EDUCATION.for once the negro had a good education he would have the skills for a good job and the he or she could afford good housing.

the clergymen in birmingham had critisized dr king that his demonstrations were led by outsiders and they werent well timed. dr king replied i have yet to engage in a direct action that was well timed.

for years now i have heard the word wait. It rings in the ear of every negro with piercing familiarity.

the wait has almost always meant never.justice delayed is justice denied.we have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and GOD given rights.

for in 1965 dr king told me it wasnt that GOD had chosen him to be a civil rights activist.but he had chosen GOD. mans law sometimes its right sometimes its wrong. GODS law is always right. dr king had grown up in a world at war.over 35 million people died in ww II. but rather than being depressed at the worlds plight he saw a ray of hope in india. when we look back at the 20th century the two great victories for the human race INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

what do they have in common NON-VIOLENCE mahatma gandhi had no army air force or navy he had only 1 weapon

satyagraha the truth force. by merely not eating, going on a hunger strike in prison, he was able to end over 200 years of british rule the moral superiority of NON-VIOLENCE did what countless armed rebellions had failed to do independence 1947

independence for india another VICTORY FOR NON VIOLENCE

for 20 years, starting in 1942, nelson mandela directed peaceful, NON-VIOLENT acts of defiance against the south african government and its racist policies. but in 1961 mandela strayed and he joined the MK, part of the african national congress that advocated armed struggle. soon he was jailed and sentenced to life in prison. for 28 years I and millions of others demonstrated for his release. on picket lines we shouted FREE MANDELA and he was, with what a beautiful transition. in 1994 he was elected president of south africa YES YES YES ANOTHER VICTORY FOR NON-VIOLENCE ANOTHER VICTORY FOR THE HUMAN RACE DR KING IS JUST AS RELEVANT TODAY AS HE WAS 50 YEARS AGO he shows us the path we should follow

ACT BE MILITANT BE NON-VIOLENT

in nov 2014 five st louis rams show their solidarity with the michael brown family

in dec 2014 lebron james wore a tee shirt which said i can not breathe.dr king would applaud them.ok where are we at.GOD'S law ALWAYS RIGHT mans law another story. JOHN 8 VERSE 7 says "let anyone of you who is without sin be the 1st to throw a stone at her."ok people its not a crime to commit a crime.none of us are perfect.we cheat on our taxes. i live in indianapolis and we all run red lights.i root for the patriots.

THESE ARE CRIMES when we break a law we should be tried by a judge and a jury not by a policeman. the good book says love thy neighbor when i was 14 my neighbor had 3 teenage daughters. Cool then i read more and it wasnt that type of love. we were given 10 commandments one of which is

THY SHALT NOT KILL it doesn't say you can kill on Mondays it doesn't say you can kill in leap years it doesn't say you can kill if you are in the military and it definitely does not say you can kill if you are a policeman THY SHALT NOT KILL GOD'S pretty clear GOD made Adam and eve in his own image HE gave them 2 arms 2 legs 2 eyes 1 mouth and 1 brain. If GOD had wanted you to kill instead of hands you would have a weapon but HE gave you hands hands to build with hands to caress your loved ones with in July 2014 Eric garner sells untaxed cigarettes he is murdered by a chokehold the chokehold, for ny city police, is prohibited. The coroner rules it a homicide. It months later now. but no one arrested. In nov 2014 tamar rice a 12 year old plays in a park in Cleveland within 2 seconds of the police arrival tamar is murdered by a policeman. He breaks GOD'S LAW and mans law. the child had committed no crime.ohio law allows you to carry a weapon. Two months later, the murderer still working, no charges filed. But THEIR DEATHS WERE NOT IN VAIN.

as dr king said justice delayed is justice denied. But there is no statute of limitations on murder.jimmie lee Jackson was shot by an Alabama state trooper feb 18th 1965.he died 8 days later. a grand jury declined to indict the state trooper in 1965, sound familiar.

but in 2007 the state trooper was charged with 1st and 2nd degree murder, but in 2010 he was allowed to plead guilty to manslaughter. he got 6 months in jail. IS THAT ALL A LIFE IS WORTH. on march 7th 1965 we had bloody sunday in selma alabama. dogs and hoses attacked the demonstrators. viola liuzzo heeds the call for volunteers to come to selma. she travels from detroit for the selma to montgomery march which takes 5 days to complete. on march 25th viola shuttles marchers to the airport. she is shot and murdered by the klan. at her funeral dr king tells her daughter penny YOUR MOTHER HAS NOT DIED IN VAIN

10 weeks later i go south to work for dr king. why. well the year before we had a freedom summer in mississippi many of the white residents deeply resented the outsiders and any attempt to change their society.locals routinely harrassed the volunteers. newspapers called them unshaven and unwashed trash.the volunteers prescense in local black communities sparked drive by shootings, molotov cocktails, and constant harrasment.state and local government, the police the kkk used arrests,

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arsons beatings, evictions, loss of employment, and even murder tp prevent blacks from registering to vote over the course of the 10 week project

1062 were arrested

80 freedom summer workers were beaten

4 civil rights workers were killed

37 churches were bombed or burnt

30 homes of local blacks were bombed or burnt

4 people were critically injured

at least 3 local blacks were killed because they supported the civil rights movement

on june 21st 1965. the local newspapers james chaney andrew goodman and michael schwerner are arrested by the sheriff a klu klux klan member.they spend 1 night in jail and upon their release they are abducted by the kkk and murdered.the local newspapers call it a hoax.it shocked the nation and exposed mississippians closed society. the fbi refused to investigate

they said it was a local matter.but the attorney general of the united states sent agents and sailors to search fhe swamps to find their bodies.the search of the swamps turned up 8 blacks. one was HERBERT OARSBY, a 14 year old youth wearing a Congress Of Racial Equality tee shirt.after 44 days they find the bodies of chaney,goodman, and schwerner in an earthen dam.THEY DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

there was a giant in the civil rights movement a. phillp randolph.he organized the 1st march on Washington to protest that blacks could not get jobs in the defense industry in wwll.franklin roosevelt under this NON-VIOLENT PRESSURE ordered the formation of the fair employment practices commission to investigate racial discrimination by defense firms! the march of 100,000 was called off.NON-VIOLENCE HAD WON ANOTHER VICTORY

after ww II a phillip randolph took on the federal government. he organized the league for NON-VIOLENT civil disobediance against military segregation. the groups actions eventually led to president truman issuing an executive order banning racial segregation in the us armed forces. the vear was 1948.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR NON-VIOLENCE in 1963 a. phillip randolph began organizing for another march on Washington.this march would be for JOBS and FREEDOM. a.phillip randolph and 5 civil rights organizations were the

1st to start organizing.later labor unions and churches would help. the civil rights groups were SCLC which stands for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference CORE which stands for the Congress Of Racial Equality NAACP which stands for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. SNCC which stands for Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Urban League which stands for the Urban League.

AND THE PEOPLE CAME over 250000 attended millions more watched on to a march for jobs and freedomon jan 19th 2015 we still need jobs on jan 19th 2015 we STILL NEED FREEDOM one of my jobs is to spread the ideas of dr king.he does a better job at that than i do.these are his words from parts of the march on Washington speech

"i am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.five score years ago, a great american, in whose symbolic we stand today signed the emmancipation proclamation.this momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustices.it came as a joyous daybreak to end the long wait of their captivity.but 100 years later THE NEGRO STILL IS NOT FREE 100 years later the negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity.100 years later the life of the negro is still badly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination.100 years later the negro is still languished in the corners of american society and finds himself an exile in his own land.and so we come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

in a sense we've come to our nations to cash a check.when the architects of our republic wrote the words of the constitution and the declaration of independence they were signing a promissary note to which every american was to fall heir. this was a note that ALL MEN, YES BLACK MEN AS WELL AS WHITE WOULD BE GUARANTEED THE UNALIENABLE RIGHTS OF LIFE LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS. it is obvious today that america has defaulted on this promissory note in so far as her citizens of color are concerned. instead of honoring this sacred obligation america has give the negro a bad check a check which came back marked insufficent funds."

i was walking on Washington street in Boston when i went by a newspaper rack. the headline blared.MALCOLM X DEAD

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i cried. he had gone from being a black Muslim to a person who represented all of the people in the world. I LOVE DR KING I LOVE MALCOLM X I LOVE OTIS REDDING I LOVE JOHN LENNON my thoughts on JOHN F KENNEDY arent all that strong, but i knew exactly where i was at when each of these giants died.

THEIR DEATHS WERE NOT IN VAIN.

it was the summer of 1965 i was going south to atlanta for a week of orientation. my trainers were the rev Ralph Abernathy, Jessie Jackson, Julian bond, Andrew young, and of course dr king.for a week we met and they were preparing me to go to battle with the klan, local police and state police.

who was the Klan

they were the mayor, the local minister, the chief of police, and the hardware store owner. they had a system where whites ran the show and they liked it that way whites on top with rights and privleges blacks on the bottom beat or lynched if they got uppity.

we had been sent a list of books to try to prepare us for the battlefield.books by James Baldwin the fire next time. black like me- a white southerner dons black shoe polish and cant believe what black people have to go through, his name john Griffen.

on the elevator in the north people say nice things to the black man but when he gets off the racism flows. this is the north in 1965 in the south there is no pretense of being nice.

dr king told our classroom we may be beat or even killed.in his march on Washington speech he had said i may not be there with you. but in 1965 he knew he would be killed by the forces of evil.AS HE TOLD ME THIS HE WOULD BE PROUD he would be proud to join the 100's of thousands who had GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM.AND I WERE SO LUCKY TO JOIN HIM MY DEATH WOULD NOT BE IN VAIN. my death would be the pavement on the ROAD TO FREEDOM.

as i write this WOWexcuse the french kids have brass balls.we think we can change the world. AND YOU KNOW SOMETIMES WE DO. after 1 week in Atlanta we were dispatched to 6 southern states.i was to go to williamston n carolina

we were the SCOPE PROJECT, scope stands for summer community organization and political education.we were 500 volunteers, mostly northern white college students.we would stay with the local people.

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there is nothing more swaying than a negro baptist church in the south.THATS RIGHT twice the locals had to collar me. i didn't know i was joining the local church.the minister would say IF YOU BELIEVE THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW RISE AND SAY HALLELUJAH AND COME ON DOWN TO THE FRONT id rise and the people i was with yanked me and had me sit down.

POVERTY i had seen ghettos in Boston but in the south on former plantations, people lived in total poverty. most of the kids 16-30 moved north to new york or chicago there were few people 16-30 in the rural south.

colored people,negroes,african americans,and black people many names for the descendents of the SLAVES, ROBBED FROM MOTHER AFRICA

in the 9 weeks i was in n carolina we attempted to desegregate about 15 restaurants. 2 white people and 2 black people we would go in the restaurant. the front would be marked 'WHITE ONLY' out back park benches without a roof or tarp were "COLORED ONLY"signs.after awhile the waitress or cook would come over and tell the 2 black people they needed to leave and go out back.we explained the civil rights act said they could not discriminate.after waiting 20 or 30 minutes without being served, we would call atlanta and they would file suit in federal court.after meeting local people for about 3 weeks we took some people down to the courthouse to register them to vote.when we went in the county clerk said you all wouldn't believe it,we just ran out of forms.but you all come back next week.for to try to register to vote was a supreme act of courage you could lose your job be run out of town at best tarred and feathered or lynched at worst. in eastern n carolina only 2 % of negros were registered to vote.

so the next week we went back to attempt to register. again a lame excuse so we filed suit against the clerk and county that had illegaly not let us register.

has anybody seen a cross burning by the klan.if you have raise your hands.i have. has anybody seen the klan burn a cross on your front lawn and you are the target. i have.i had been in williamston when the klu klux klan came a calling.

they showed up in 3 pickup trucks dressed in their white robes hiding their faces. as they burned the cross they said they would be back the next night and if i were there they would burn the house with me in it the next day i was 20 miles away in a local church awaiting jessie jackson.he was

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coming from atlanta. two other civil rights worker had also been threatened.one of the civil rights workers,michael farley had been chased thru town.they wanted to lynch him.jessie decided his summer in the south was over..the other civil rights worker would go back to the town we had been in.but we would never stay in any house more than 1 night.and we were never to stop for police on any rural road.we were to drive to town and turn ourselves in there.for a civil rights worker to stop for a policeman on a rural country road invited a beating at best,or being tarred and feathered at worst.the last 3 weeks went by, and my summer in the south was over.i spoke at colleges in the north encouraging people to go south the next summer.

what did we accomplish in the 60's

1 the scope project registered 49000 black folks to vote.

2 the civil rights act of 1964 had many good provisions most worked 3the voting rights act of 1965 great victory not always able to enforce many civil rights workers gave their lives for the right to vote many soldiers many wars gave their lives so we could vote so please always vote 4we helped end the war in vietnam

5 the war on poverty we won the opening battles we lost the war from 30 million in 1980 to 44 million today SAD

6 but most important we proved way beyond a reasonable doubt that the negro IS NOT INFERIOR in the 50's the surgeon general said smoking is not harmful to your health yeah right.

in the 50's these same mental midgets at harvard and yale showed their research that the negro skull could not have a brain that could do complex computations. yeah right. some even went so far to say the negro was the missing link between the ape and modern homo sapiens.BS WE DISPROVED IT THE NEGRO WASNT INFERIOR 10 SECONDS AGO 10 MINUTES AGO 10HOURS AGO 100 YEARS AGO 1000 YEARS AGO WE ARE 1 RACE THE HUMAN RACE

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO in 1964 7% of african americans were eligible to vote out of 535 seats in congress in 1964 only 8 were held by blacks in 2014 there are 43 supreme court 1 out of 9

1 president

i get so upset when i hear congressmen whether reepublican or democrat say dr king would be pleased his dream has been realized HELLO HAS ANYONE CHECKED UNEMPLOYMENT LATELY

5.1 for white adults 10.9 for black adults

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25% for white teenagers 50% for black teenagers our countries future scientists teachers or anything else they fancy to do where do they get the money for college? do you see how much they charge

we have had giants mahatma gandhi 5'3 dr king 5'7 nelson mandela 6' muhammed ali 6'3 malcolm x 6'4

white folk have mount rushmore we need a mountain to have our giants remembered and maybe just maybe one of you here today sitting in this room could be that giant that leads us TO OUR FREEDOM DAY we need to be free america owes us

the government paid native americans 100's of millions for past injustices and they deserved it

the government paid americans of japanese descent 100's of million for past injustices and they deserved it

what about us? slaves tortured raped or killed at the masters discretion it is time descendents of the people stolen from mother africa be paid hundreds of BILLIONS

we are 1 people 1 race THE HUMAN RACE

44 MILLION POOR IN AMERICA

FEED THE PEOPLE

as john lennon sang

imagine no possessions i wonder if you can

no need for greed or hunger a brotherhood of man imagine all the people sharing all the world you may say i'm a dreamer but i'm not the only one i hope someday you'll join us and the world will live as one WOW

bill russell dr king they changed my life

i spent 1 hour in june of 1965 with dr king

when he was done talking to the 20 freedom fighters he spoke with us individually

when my turn came he asked what college did i go to what was my major then he asked what would i do with my future

and i finally know my future to spread the ideas and the love this man had for all GODS children

in 1965 i represented dr king proudly and today i represent him proudly keep the faith GOD bless you