

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2009

*Setting the truth free*

## MARTIN LUTHER KING

(1929 - 1968)

*(born Michael Luther King Jr  
but later had his name  
changed to Martin)*

Martin Luther King was an American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement and he is frequently referenced as a human rights icon today.

He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, serving as its first president. His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I have a Dream" speech and established himself as one of the greatest orators in U.S. history.

Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4th 1968 by which time he had refocused his efforts on ending poverty and opposing the Vietnam War, both from a religious perspective. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2004 and in 1986 Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a U.S. national holiday.

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