



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 17, 2013

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. KING

By retired Tech. Sgt. Paul Connors

His name was Dr. (Reverend) Martin Luther King, Jr. and he died in the cause of civil rights. Born when many of the states in the Union were still legally and officially segregated, his name became synonymous with equal rights for all in the United States during the latter decades of the 20th century.

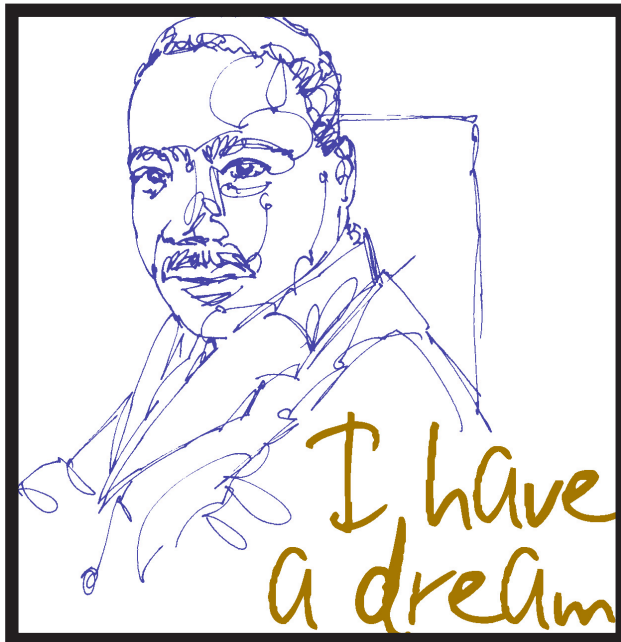
Born in Atlanta in 1929, King, the son of a pastor graduated from Morehouse College there in 1948 earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951 and his doctorate from Boston University in 1955. His first pulpit was as the pastor of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala., ironically located one block away from the first capital of the Confederate States of America. In 1955 and 1956, King led the African-American boycott of the segregated city bus lines in Alabama's capital city. Shortly thereafter, the city desegregated public transportation and King earned a high level of recognition and prestige as a leader of the burgeoning civil rights movement.

King then went on to help found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and this organization enabled him to develop a base for further civil-rights activities locally and somewhat later, throughout the rest of the United States. Much like Mahatma Gandhi in India, he espoused a philosophy of non-violence and his passive resistance to civil authority in the Deep South led to numerous arrests in the 1950s and 60s. While more than a few of his early campaigns against institutionalized segregation met with limited degrees of success, the protest he led in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 brought him international attention and prestige.

Continuing to defy state and local authorities, King then spearheaded the August 1963 "March on Washington" that brought more than 200,000 of all races together to demand the end of discrimination in the United States. It was on August 28, 1963, during this event in Washington, D.C., that King delivered his now famous and historic "I Have A Dream" speech. While the title itself is well known, it is the less well-known contents that delivered the powerful message that King hoped to impart. The stanzas of his speech resonated with a message of hope and reconciliation and perhaps more importantly, an overt attempt to begin the healing of a nation that heretofore had been divided along racial lines. Some

of the more famous lines of the speech included: "I have a dream that one day my four little children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

He continued: "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will they be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." Studied for years by religious leaders, King's acclaimed speech has been recognized as emblematic of his training as a clergyman. It holds appeal for students of the Bible and political activists. It invokes the United States Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. During the delivery of the speech King laid a firm foundation for the battle for the equality of all who lived within the United States.



The leadership exhibited by King and his passionate pleas for true justice for all, regardless of race, creed or origin, also served to place pressure on President John F. Kennedy's administration in its final months before JFK's assassination in November 1963. After that tragic event, the Civil Rights

Movement with King in the vanguard pressed for additional reforms from President Lyndon Johnson. Ultimately, Johnson pushed for federal laws and these became reality after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For his leadership in the Civil Rights movement, TIME magazine named King the 1963 Man of the Year and in 1964, he became the youngest person to ever be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In the "I've been to the Mountaintop" speech King said: "I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people will get to the Promised Land" King delivered these words April 3, 1968 at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn.

Sadly, the early potential for national leadership in the arena of Civil Rights ended when King was struck down by an assassin's bullet the next day at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Martyred at the age of 39, others, including King's widow, Coretta Scott King took up the banner of the movement he helped found. His legacy lives on today in the progress that has been made through legislation and societal transformation.



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**The Chief of National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass, addresses Soldiers from the 508th Military Police, New Jersey National Guard, Jan. 15, 2013 at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. Grass, along with Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief National Guard Bureau, Chief Master Sgt. Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, visited National Guard troops deployed overseas. (Army National Guard photo by Master Sgt Joseph Prieto)**



**Sgt. 1st Class Orlando Miranda, left, and Staff Sgt. Jose Cevallos, right, New Jersey National Guard Soldiers, present an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's award to Passaic County Sheriff's Office detectives Fred Ernst, left, and Larry F. Mantilla, right, Jan. 3, 2013. The award was presented to the two detectives on behalf of Foxtrot Company, 250th Brigade Support Battalion, commander, Capt. Michael Sojka, for their loyal support of the New Jersey National Guard. (Courtesy photo)**

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## Free tax services through Military OneSource

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr., American Forces Press Service

As tax season nears, Military OneSource and H&R Block have joined forces again to provide a free online tax preparation service for military service members.

During an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Tony Jackson, a program analyst for the Military OneSource program office, detailed the services available for troops and their families.

"Military OneSource is a gateway to a free tax preparation service, partnered with H&R Block," he said. "We also have tax consultants who can provide assistance, whether it's seeking and filling out tax forms or any other tax-related information."

Jackson emphasized it is a safe and secure way for service members to prepare their taxes online.

"Military OneSource and H&R block definitely meet industry standards for security for websites," he said. "Also, encryption software [is used], and there's also no selling of information, so service members and family members can be assured that their information is secure, and it stays within Military OneSource and H&R Block."

Jackson noted that two services - basic and premium - are provided through H&R Block, with one notable difference. The basic service is free, he said, and the premium service would apply to taxpayers who must file Schedule C returns, generally to report gains or losses from business ownership.

"When you start getting into premium, ... you're going to incur some additional costs, where basic is free," Jackson said. "But if you have Schedule C tax issues, that's when you'd go to the premium. Again, the key point there is you do incur additional costs if you have to use the premium."

For those not sure which service they should use, Jackson encouraged them to use the Military OneSource website as a guide. The site lists answers to frequently asked questions, he added.

"You can always contact Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647," Jackson said. "We're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so any questions you have;



you can use the website or the call center at the [toll-free] number."

Jackson said both methods are effective in contacting Military OneSource tax consultants offering useful services for troops and their families.

"Not only do they provide forms and basic information relative to military-specific tax issues and questions, they are a gateway to get you to H&R Block," he said. "If your tax situation warrants, they'll get you to a volunteer income tax assistance clinic on your local military installation or larger command. It's one-stop shopping."

These tax consultants cannot prepare tax forms or direct people to do anything, Jackson said. Everything is on a recommended basis.

All members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are eligible to use the service, he said, including members of the National Guard and Reserve components, regardless of activation status.

Coast Guard reservists activated under Title 10 authority to serve with the Navy also are eligible, he added, and so are spouses and other family members enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

"Family members that have been designated to provide support to deployed

service members, medically discharged retirees and discharged service members within 180 days of their discharge date are eligible for Military OneSource services," Jackson added.

The key to these services is financial readiness, which is a Defense Department priority, Jackson said.

"We understand that financial readiness is a readiness issue," he said. "If you have a service [member] who's concerned about their financial situation then that detracts from the mission."

Jackson also provided his personal testament to using the free tax preparation program, having served on active duty in the Marine Corps as a personnel officer for more than 20 years. He said his family still uses the service.

"In fact, I have a daughter right now who is currently a military spouse, and she continues to use it as well," he said.

This program's ultimate goal, Jackson said, is to ensure service members and their families know that Military OneSource is an option.

"We hope it's the first option ... for getting your taxes prepared or answering any questions or issues you have with taxes," he said. "Just know that Military OneSource is there to help you."



*Pemberton Township High School Army JROTC cadets pose with Brig. Gen. James Grant, director of the joint staff, New Jersey National Guard, at the medal ceremony at Moorestown Mall Jan. 15, 2013. Twenty veterans from Burlington, Gloucester and Camden counties were honored with state medals for their service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. To view more photos of this event, please visit our Facebook page: [NJDMAVA](#). (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA Public Affairs Office)*



*Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Albert G. Curving, right, receives the 2012 CW4 Albert M. Holcombe Warrant Officer of the Year Award from outgoing president of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kenneth "Pete" Hill at the annual members meeting at Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 3, 2012. The U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association consists of nearly 6,000 members representing some 15,000 U.S. Army Warrant Officers presently serving in the Active Component, Reserves, and National Guard; as well as some 45,000 retired and former Army warrant officers. (Courtesy photo)*

## Payroll Tax Changes for 2013 and beyond

Attention DMAVA employees: Effective with paychecks issued Jan. 1, 2013 and thereafter; the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax withholding will increase to 6.2 percent in 2013 due to the expiration of the Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act on Dec. 31, 2012. The total FICA taxable wage base for 2013 has increased to \$113,700. The Medicare rate of 1.45 percent is unchanged for 2013. There is no Medicare wage base.

Furthermore, The Disability Insurance (TDI) rate is increased from 0.2 percent to 0.36 percent. The Unemployment Insurance contribution rate remains at 0.3825 percent, and the Workforce Development rate remains at 0.0425 percent. These two are combined toward the Unemployment Insurance Contribution (UIC) rate of 0.425 percent. The Family Leave Insurance (FLI) contribution rate is increased from .08 percent to .10 percent. The annual taxable base for all three items is increased from \$30,300 to \$30,900. The new maximum deduction amounts are \$111.24 for TDI; \$131.33 for UIC, and \$30.90 for FLI.

Finally, Federal Income Taxes (FIT) will continue to be computed using the 2012 FIT withholding tables until new tables are issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The Supplemental Flat Rate percentage has increased from 25 percent to 28 percent, effective with Supplemental A, 2013. There are no changes to the New Jersey State Income Tax tables or the Pennsylvania withholding rate for 2013.

If you have any issues or questions, please contact your local Human Resources office.

## MBOS: Use It

Attention NJ DMAVA state employees:

Effective Feb. 1, any active employee who wishes to verify, update, or change their beneficiary information within the retirement system must use the Online designation of beneficiary application, which is accessible through a personal account within the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS).

MBOS can be accessed by following this link: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Human Resources Office.

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at [pao@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

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