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Issue Date: January 13, 1979  
First Day City: Atlanta, Georgia  
Designer: Jerry Pinkney  
Croton-on-Hudson, New York  
Modeler: Ronald C. Sharpe  
Press: Gravure  
Colors: Yellow, ochre, magenta, cyan,  
brown and black  
Image Area: 0.84 x 1.44 inches or  
21.3 x 36.5 millimeters  
Plate Numbers: Six  
Stamps to Pane: 50  
Selvage: © U.S. Postal Service  
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# Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Stamp

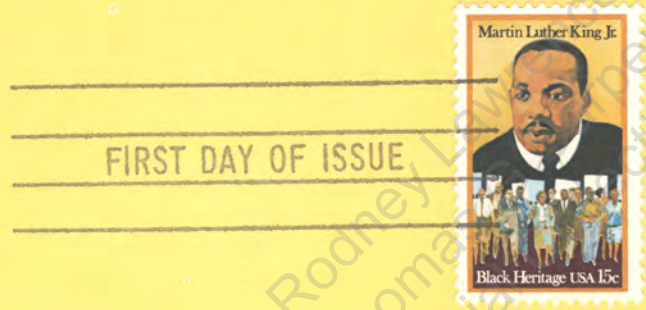
A 15-cent commemorative stamp honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be issued January 13 during ceremonies at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. This is the second stamp issued in the new Black Heritage USA Series which recognizes contributions of Black Americans to the growth and development of the United States. The series began in 1978 with a stamp honoring Harriet Tubman.

Dr. King was an American clergyman and civil rights leader. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his efforts to bring peaceful change to America.

Procedures for ordering first day cancellations are as follows:

—**Customers affixing stamps.** Customers are encouraged to purchase their own stamps at their local post offices and affix them to their own envelopes. Covers bearing customer affixed stamps will be given preferential service. All envelopes must be addressed and peelable return address labels are recommended for this purpose. Stamps must be affixed in the upper right edge. Return addresses should be placed on the right side of envelopes at least five-eighths of an inch up from the bottom. A filler of postal card thickness should be inserted in each cover. Not later than January 29—orders must be postmarked by that date—the envelopes may be forwarded to "First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Atlanta, GA 30304." No remittance is required.

—**Postal Service affixing stamps.** Except for affixing stamps and addressing orders, follow the procedures listed above. Address orders to "Martin Luther King, Jr. Stamp, Postmaster, Atlanta, GA 30304." The cost is 15 cents per stamp to be affixed to covers. Do not send cash. Personal checks in the exact amount will be accepted as remittance for orders up to the limit of 50 covers. Postage stamps are unacceptable as payment. Orders must be postmarked no later than January 29.



Rodney L. ...  
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Cancellations Library





# AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



## Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who played a decisive role in the U. S. civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, is honored as the subject of a commemorative stamp in the Black Heritage USA Series, which recognizes contributions of Black Americans to the growth and development of the United States.

He won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the nonviolent struggle for racial equality in the United States. Dr. King first came to national attention when he



led a boycott of the segregated public bus system in Montgomery, Alabama, which led to a U. S. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in intrastate transportation was as unlawful as it was in interstate transportation. He subsequently played a key role in antidiscrimination and voter registration drives and the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, and was also instrumental in passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After his death in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, historians agreed that he had been the dominant force in the civil rights movement during its decade of greatest achievement.

Stamp designer Jerry Pinkney used a strong portrait of the honoree as the central element of his painting, and civil rights marchers bearing placards appear in the lower foreground. The associated engravings were executed by master craftsmen.







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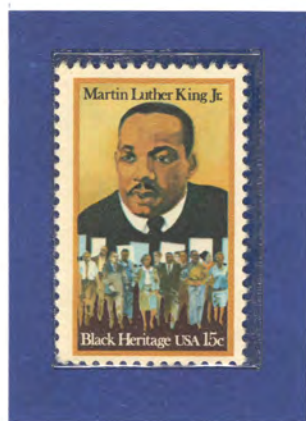
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# The Civil Rights Act of 1964



One of the unfinished tasks of President John F. Kennedy's administration was the adoption of an important civil rights bill. Picking up the torch of the nation's fallen leader, President Lyndon B. Johnson urged Congress to enact the legislation as a tribute to his predecessor.

Johnson signed the historic Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964, in Washington, D.C., saying, "Its purpose is not to divide, but to end divisions." The new law, which prohibited discrimination in employment and assured Blacks of access to public places, was the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights legislation in over 100 years.

The historic U.S. mint stamp on this Panel features the civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. It was issued in 1979.



Washington, D.C. — July 2, 1964





Official  
First Day  
of Issue

"I HAVE  
A DREAM"

HONORING

# Martin Luther King

1929-1968

DISTINGUISHED CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER  
RECIPIENT OF THE NOBEL  
PEACE PRIZE



BLACK HERITAGE USA SERIES



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



## Martin Luther King, Jr. -- Civil Rights Leader

### BLACK HERITAGE USA SERIES

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life," Martin Luther King, Jr. told the church meeting. "But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will." Less than twenty-four hours later, on April 4, 1968, he would be assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Gone was the crusading leader who, for more than a decade, had led the first mass civil rights movement in United States history. Stilled was the voice of reason and hope that had inspired the country's blacks and reached into the consciences of the whites. King was only 39 at the time of his death, but he had packed a lifetime of accomplishments into those few years.

Born on January 15, 1929, King was the son and grandson of Southern Negro ministers. A student at Morehouse College by the age of 15, he entered Crozer Theological Seminary four years later. At Crozer, he was first introduced to the principles of non-violence as set forth and practiced by the Indian independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi. These ideas were to shape his life and, in 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr. would receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the non-violent struggle for racial equality in the United States.

Just eight years before his international recognition as

Nobel laureate, King had been minister of the small Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, Rosa Parks, a black resident of the city, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. King rose up to head the Montgomery Improvement Association, an organization formed to protest the arrest. Suddenly he was thrust into the national media spotlight. King went on to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and, as its spokesman and leader, reached the zenith of his power in the first half of the 1960's.

Of the many non-violent boycotts, protests and sit-ins led by King, perhaps the best known is the historic march on Washington in 1963. With 200,000 people gathered in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial -- and millions more watching on television -- King, using biblical phraseology, delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech. The speech would be remembered as the very symbol of the civil rights movement and the high point of Dr. King's influence.

This 15¢ stamp, the second in the Black Heritage USA Series, commemorates Martin Luther King, Jr. The stamp was designed by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, a black artist, who also designed the 1978 Harriet Tubman stamp, the first stamp in the Series.



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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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THE UNITED STATES COMMEMORATIVE STAMP  
FIRST DAY COVER  
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FAMOUS AMERICANS GOLD STAMP COMMEMORATIVE



*Martin Luther King*

MARTIN LUTHER KING

1929-1968

SERIES	DESCRIPTION	PURITY
Famous Americans	Raised Relief Gold Stamp	23K



*The Westport Mint*



## Martin Luther King

Nobel Peace Prize 1964

This commemorative 15¢ stamp was issued in 1979 on his birthday, January 13. His words "I have a dream that someday all men will be brothers . . . and the evils of prejudice and segregation

will vanish" were the keynote of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement 1955-1968. He was assassinated in Memphis Tennessee on April 4, 1968. Inscribed on his tombstone are the words "Free at Last".

Rodney C. ... Sr. Papers  
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