



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

January 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of the Navy 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On Monday, 20 January, 2025, we celebrate the National Day of Service, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s (MLK) legacy, life, and impact. While President Reagan signed the law to establish this day in 1983, it was later in 1994, when Congress designated it as a National Day of Service that encourages all Americans to volunteer and improve their communities. A continuous theme of this federal holiday is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"

Dr. King advocated for nonviolent resistance as a means to fight against injustice and reduce racial oppression. He sparked change through organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality. Dr. King was instrumental in dismantling the legal segregation of African American citizens in the United States. He played a crucial role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was honored with the dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on August 28, 2011. This memorial is the first on the National Mall to honor an African American individual. The site provides a space for reflection on Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence and his lasting dedication to freedom, justice, and equality.

Dr. King once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase." This MLK Day, let us reflect on how we can progress together more easily than we can alone. Remember to make it a Day On, Not a Day Off, for yourself and those around you.

The Department of the Navy (DON) is dedicated to the safety and security of our Nation and Dr. King's legacy is an indelible part of America. The DON is committed to eliminating any workplace barriers that hinder the recruitment and retention of a qualified talented workforce attained from all segments of society. Additionally, the DON remains steadfast in its promise to create an environment where everyone is treated with dignity, inclusivity, and respect. I encourage every Sailor, Marine, and civilian to remember Dr. King's effort and hope for unity as one Nation. To learn more about Dr. King and his legacy please visit <https://www.defenseculture.mil/Special-Observances/#martin-luther-king-jr-birthday>.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carlos Del Toro".

Carlos Del Toro

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