

The 41st Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

Written by Forward Times Staff
Wednesday, 30 January 2013 00:00



The 41st Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration was presented by Representative Sylvester Turner, Esq., Dr. F. N. Williams, Sr. (Founder), Houston Baptist Pastors and Ministries Fellowship, the Northside Pastors and Churches at the historic Antioch MBC. Pastor F. N. Williams, H, Friendship MBC served as the Master of Ceremony. The Parade of over fifty pastors was introduced by Larry Jones, Radio-One-Houston. Alison Brock and Pam Watson from Turner's office conducted the registration of over eight hundred guest. Presentation of Color was performed by Antioch Drill Team.

Deacon Lubbie Owens delivered the welcome. The "We Are One" MLK Mass Choir provided the musical selections. City Councilmember Jerry Davis representing District B delivered the Greetings. Dr. Michael Rutledge, pastor, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church represented the host pastors and Churches.

The honorees were Sis. Nina Bailey, receiving the "MLK Community Service" award presented by Pastor Steven Williams, Star Bethel Baptist Church and Hon. Dr. F. N. Williams, Sr., pastor of Antioch MBC and founder of the MLK Celebration (first in Texas), received the "MLK Trailblazer" award presented by Rhonda Skillern-Jones, HISD Trustee, District II.

The Hon. Sylvester Turner, Esq., State Representative served as the Keynote Speaker. He brought his usual fire and thought provoking message to the podium and admonished the over eight hundred attendees. He spoke with a nostalgia look back at Dr. King's life. It is love that will save our world and our civilization, love even for enemies". Turner took an inspiration look at what's ahead in 2013, "Love & Unity". He challenged the church pastors to come together to build a better community.

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Dr. Williams addressed the audience and stated, "It has been a joy and a pleasure to honor such a noble man as Dr. King, that gave so much to awaken the conscious of America and the world that racism and inequality was wrong". It was my pleasure to sit with Dr. King at the table in Miami, Florida just a few months before he was assassinated. It was there that decisions were made for Memphis and a meeting between Dr. King, Malcolm X and the Black Panther leader. I was sitting to his right, the second person next to Dr. King as he sat at the head of the table, Rev, Jesse Jackson questioned the relevancy of such a meeting stating it would not look good for a Non Violent leader to meet with those that advocate violence. Dr. King's response was that it was due to men that advocated violence as a solution to problems of racism that cause the nation leadership to want to talk to him. "I will meet with these leaders," he said.

I shall never forget that experience, that conference to be counted, and have at times been mistaken for Dr. King, even by his father from a distance. It was the night that his life was threatened there in Miami that I was sitting on the balcony of the Twin Towers Hotel, overlooking the sea, that Daddy King ran out there shouting "Martin, Martin", when I turned around he said, "I thought you were Martin, you come on inside before you are a victim of mistaken identity."

"No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, we are tied together", a quote from one of Dr. King's speech. Please mark your calendar for the 42nd MLK Day Celebration, at Antioch MBC, 5902 Beall, (in the heart of the Acres Home Community). Please mark your calendar for the 42nd MLK Day Celebration, Monday, January 20, 2014. The Youth Rally begins at 11:00 am. and the Celebration begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information concerning this grand celebration, please call Sister Anita Brown at (713) 692-5333.