

NATION MARKS MARTIN L. KING 55TH BIRTHDAY

Some Of The Many Who Participated In The Las Vegas Parade



Nearly 5,000 Viewed Third Annual Dr. King Birthday Celebration Parade

By Ed Brown

Nearly 5,000 lined the parade route Saturday, Jan. 14 to honor slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. renewing their commitment to his nonviolent philosophy.

It was the Third Annual Dr. King parade sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Las Vegas who also presented a special tribute to Dr. King Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Reed Whipple Center where a three-act stage play, "The Dream" took place and where Roosevelt Fitzgerald, Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was the guest speaker.

More than 100 entries traveled the parade route which started at the Las Vegas High School area at south Seventh Street and proceeded to Fremont Street, then south to Bridger Avenue, the termination point.

Grand marshal was Dr. Paul Meacham, president of Clark County Community College.

The Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard led the parade.

Special commemorative services were held throughout the Las

Vegas area at the various churches to include the Nellis AFB chapel.

During the program at the Reed Whipple Center, proclamations from the State and local Government officials were also presented.

The impressive parade, lasting approximately 1 1/2 hours, consisted of many community organizations, local and State leaders, political aspirants, churches and individuals.

Across the country, the 55th birthday of Dr. King was also commemorated by his widow, Coretta Scott King, and other Americans who remembered King's dream of equality and peace. She attended a concert of gospel music in the Newark, N.J. Symphony Hall featuring speeches by civic leaders.

After King's death, King's wife created the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-violent Social Change, which has since served as the impetus for national celebrations of his birth.

At least 18 states and the District of Columbia currently observe such a holiday, and last year, President Reagan signed a bill creating a national King holiday in 1986.



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