

Governor Bryan Declares January 20, Dr. M.L. King's Birthday, A State Holiday

CARSON CITY — Governor Richard Bryan today joined with President Reagan, Senator Paul Laxalt and 42 other states in officially declaring January 20, 1986, the birthday of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a state holiday.

The Governor praised Las Vegas Senator Joe Neal for his tireless efforts in the 1983 and 1985 Legislature to attempt to establish King's birthday as a state holiday.

Neal and members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission are planning special events, which include prayer services and parades, in honor of King's birthday.

The National Governors Association has resolved that states declaring King's birthday a state holiday, celebrate it on the

national date. In keeping with this resolution, Nevada's holiday will be the third Monday of January. The Governor has the power to declare two state holidays each year.

Governor Bryan says "The Reverend King deserves special recognition for his outstanding work in civil rights. The state holiday will give Nevadans a chance to reflect on the importance of the principles in which King believed and for which he died."

King, one of the early leaders in the civil rights movement, achieved national prominence in the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in 1955. He was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta and was assassinated April 4, 1968.

New allegations In Lehnrs case

A Reno police official suing City Councilwoman Florence Lehnrs for defamation has amended his complaint to include three additional causes of action.

The amendments have extended the deadline for attorneys for Lehnrs and the city to file a response.

Deputy Chief Lonnie Jackson claims he has suffered "contempt and ridicule" since Lehnrs accused him — he says falsely — of drinking on the job. Among other things, the new complaint says the Reno charter prohibits council members from dealing directly in personnel matters.

The responses "will get filed within a week or two," said attorney Robert McQuaid, who is handling the case for the city.

The councilwoman has apologized for the remark, made last summer but Jackson is seeking unspecified monetary damages.



PM'S ROBERTS WELCOMES BACK POLICE GROUP — Allene S. Roberts of Philip Morris U.S.A. welcomes delegates to the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the National Black Police Association (NBPA) held recently in Miami, Florida. With Roberts are NBPA National Chairman Ronald Hampton, (left), and the Honorable R. Eugene Pincham, Justice of the Appellate Court First District in Chicago. Pincham delivered the Conference's keynote address on "The Black Struggle in America." Established in 1972, the NBPA represents more than 35,000 active and retired law-enforcement professionals in 97 chapters throughout the U.S. The organization's primary purpose is strengthening relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Community Plans To Feed It's Needy at Xmas

By BOB PALM

In the tradition of Christmas churches and community service organizations in and around the fringes of the black community plan to feed hundreds of the needy before and doing Christmas.

The Rev. S.P. Parks, president of the Ministers Alliance, said the turnout in the black community is expected to be sparse because "people in our community like to try and eat at home during the holidays."

Parks said traditionally churches in the black community serve more of the needy between these holidays.

He said not too many of the needy turned out for the dinner served Thanksgiving and last Christmas by his church -- Grace Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church, located at 805 W Bartlett Avenue -- and not too many

are expected for the church's Christmas dinner.

He said his church prepares holiday dinners primarily for the old and those who can't prepare the holiday meals for themselves. Many other churches will also serve dinners, he said.

Eliza Rone, director and founder of Community Concerned Citizens 5124 Carver, plans to serve a pre-Christmas dinner on Dec. 23.

"The meal will be served from noon until 4 p.m., and between 500 and 1,000 needy persons are expected to take advantage of the free meal," Rone said.

She said the organization is also trying to get toys for needy children.

"This organization also gives away free food between the holidays every Tuesday and Friday until 4 p.m. and free clothes every weekday," Rone added.

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THE SENTINEL-VOICE

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