

SCENES FROM THE 11TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY PARADE



Black Leaders Want Road Named For King

RENO - Black community leaders say they want to change the name of the portion of U.S. Highway 395 that runs through Nevada to the Martin Luther King Jr. Highway in honor of the slain civil right leader.

"Every big city has a park or a street named after Martin Luther King, I think it would be...fitting for Reno to follow, Reno NAACP Chapter President Bill Moon said Monday.

Members of the Northern Nevada State Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission plan to draft the name change proposal and submit it to the Nevada Legislature when it meets next year.

"I'm sure there will be opposition. But we won't let it bother us or keep us from doing it," Moon said.

Monday's state and national holiday commemorated King's birthday.

The Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society held a banquet Monday night in Harrah's Casino to honor King.

More than 200 people packed black churches in Las Vegas and Reno on Sunday to celebrate

King's life.

At the Greater New Hope Baptist Church in Reno, Sen. Richard Bryan spoke to a full congregation about what King did for the civil rights of blacks and whites.

Bryan, D-Nev., recalled his introduction to racism as a Boy Scout in Las Vegas when one of his fellow Scouts, who was black, was barred from the municipal swimming pool because of his skin color.

"I thought 'That wasn't right,'" Bryan recalled. "As I got a little older, Nevada was recognized as the Mississippi of the West," Bryan said.

Many of the people in the packed church responded with shouts, saying: "Still is! Still is!"

Bryan told the gathering that in some respects one form of slavery has been replaced in today's society by another: drug abuse.

Reno City Councilwoman Bernice Martin-Matthews urged attendees to keep King's spirit alive by denouncing racism and continuing to seek racial equality.

Photo Page by LVS-Voice photographers Ramon Savoy and Lourdes Cordero-Brown