

# MLK's 'I Have a Dream' speech observed

WASHINGTON (AP) - Forty years after Martin Luther King Jr. eloquently captured the struggle of Black Americans for equality, civil rights activists called Saturday for his dream to finally be realized.

His vision of a land where little Black boys and girls in the South would one day hold hands with little white boys and girls was remembered by thousands of people who gathered on a warm summer day to celebrate King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

"Despite the progress we've made during the last four decades, people of color are still being denied a fair share of employment and educational opportunities in our society," said his son, Martin Luther King III.

Speaking to a few thousand people gathered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King said it was a day to honor the hard work of all those behind the 1963 march. It also represented, he said, a moment of realization that much work lies ahead.

To mark the coming 40th anniversary of the March on Washington, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, urged the crowd to follow the peaceful path that her husband preached.

"We must make our hearts instruments of peace and non-violence because when the heart is right, the mind and the body will follow," she said.

Mrs. King stood on the memorial's granite steps, looking out over the Reflecting Pool, in the same spot where her husband delivered



Photo by Hazel Trice Edney/NNPA

Coretta Scott King is joined on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial by Reg Weaver, left, president of the National Education Association, and U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.).

his powerful appeal so many years ago to a throng estimated at 250,000.

Another activist with vivid memories of that August day in 1963 was Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who helped organize the march.

"I was here 40 years ago, 23 years old, a few pounds lighter, with all of my hair," he said, as he asked young and old alike to do more. "Too many of us are too complacent, too satisfied. We need to make a little noise."

Before the speeches, participants took shelter from the bright sun under about a half dozen white tents set up for a series of teach-ins.

The panel discussions varied from education, economic justice and jobs to voter education and empowerment - which was one of the central themes of the weekend re-

membrance.

The coalition of about 100 diverse groups who organized the rally used the event to kick off a 15-month voter mobilization campaign.

Saturday's teach-ins and speeches culminated a two-day celebration of the march in which King issued his famous demand for justice for all, delivered on Aug. 28, 1963. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,'" he said.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Organizers reached out this year to the younger gen-

eration of 20- to 30-year-olds, and many of them turned out.

Jimmy Prude, 20, a senior at Howard University, said he wanted to understand a little more about economic empowerment. "I just want to see people be able to help better themselves, and be able to learn how to invest their money," he said. "All the skills that are needed to be successful in life."

# Papers: Muhammad voiced racist views

MANASSAS, Va. (AP) - Sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad espoused racist and anti-American views and said "America got what it deserved" on Sept. 11, 2001, according to a court filing made public Monday.

The documents also indicate that Muhammad was an unindicted co-conspirator on a federal charge of passport fraud in December 2002, that he mugged an elderly man in Arizona in 2002, and that he was responsible for a February 2002 killing of a woman in Washington state.

The accusations against Muhammad were filed by prosecutors as part of a "notice of unadjudicated conduct," a list of bad acts that prosecutors may use against Muhammad at sentencing if he is convicted of the Oct. 9 shooting of Dean Harold Meyers outside a Manassas-area gas station. Muhammad faces a possible death penalty.

At a court hearing Monday, Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. placed the documents under seal, but they were made public later in the day when the judge learned that the court clerk's office had already put them on a court Web site earlier Monday.

The judge in June had instructed that the documents, when filed, would be sealed. It was not immediately clear whether prosecutors or the court clerk was responsible for seeing that the judge's order was adhered to.

Prosecutors have said last year's sniper spree, which killed 10 people and wounded three in the Washington area over a three-week span in October, was part of a scheme to extort \$10 million from the government. But Monday's court filing gives one of the first glimpses of a possible non-financial motive for Muhammad.

Muhammad's alleged partner, teenager Lee Boyd Malvo, allegedly told two prison guards that racial hatred was a partial motivation for the shootings and that the only reason he shot Black people was because the police would have caught them sooner if all the victims had been

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# Boston told to hire white firefighters

Special to Sentinel-Voice

BOSTON - Four white men passed over for firefighting jobs in favor of minority candidates who scored lower on civil service tests must be hired as soon as possible, a federal judge has ruled.

The men had sued the Boston Fire Department for discrimination. They must also be awarded back pay and seniority they would have earned since October 2000, the date they were denied employment, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Stearns ordered Monday.

A fifth plaintiff who was hired last October also will get a pay raise under the ruling.

"I think hopefully we're just going back to normal, the way it was meant to be, so that now they are just hiring the best person, regardless of race or color," said Harold Lichten, the attorney for all five men.

The city is exploring its options, officials said. "The city has just received this decision," said Seth Gitell, a spokesman for Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "The city's lawyers are reviewing it and considering its implications for future hiring."

The judge's decision applies only to the men who sued and was not intended to establish a precedent for other white applicants who were passed over in October 2000. Joseph Quinn already has been hired; the other plaintiffs were Sean O'Brien; Robert Dillon; Joseph Sullivan, and C. Roger Kendrick Jr.

An NAACP lawyer questioned the decision.

"If a return to normal means a return to the way the Boston Fire Department conducted its hiring prior to the mid-1970s, it will be a disaster for any applicants of color in this city," Toni Wolfman said.

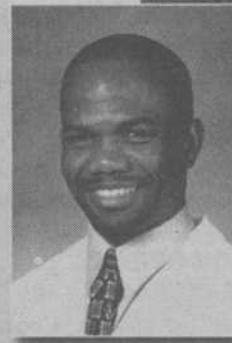
The judge at first rejected the civil rights suit filed in April 2001, the first to challenge the department's affirmative action hiring policy since 1989, when it was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

But the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Stearns, ruling in March that the city has achieved its goal of racial parity among entry-level firefighters, and no longer needed to abide by a nearly 30-year-old court order that departments across the state have used as a model to correct racial imbalance.

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