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WHO WILL LEAD THE WAY IN 2027? MLK HOLIDAY DC PREPARES TO ANNOUNCE GRAND MARSHALS FOR 22ND ANNUAL PEACE WALK & PARADE

Historic Washington, D.C. tradition continues to honor community changemakers under the 2027 theme, "Let Freedom Ring Louder Than Ever!"

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 2026) — Who will lead the way in 2027?

The MLK Holiday DC Committee is preparing to unveil the **2027 Grand Marshals for the 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk & Parade**, taking place Monday, January 18, 2027, in Washington, D.C.

More than a ceremonial role, serving as a Grand Marshal is a distinguished honor recognizing individuals whose leadership, service, advocacy, and commitment to uplifting communities embody the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

With this year's theme, **"Let Freedom Ring Louder Than Ever!"**, the committee is preparing to celebrate a new group of changemakers who are making a meaningful difference throughout the Washington metropolitan region.

A Legacy of Leadership. A Tradition of Service. A Celebration of Excellence.

For decades, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk & Parade has brought together generations of Washingtonians to celebrate Dr. King's life, honor community leadership, and reaffirm the importance of peace, justice, equality, and service.

The Grand Marshal tradition has recognized influential figures whose contributions have helped shape the District and communities across the country.

Past honorees include legendary musician **Stevie Wonder (1979)**, former Washington, D.C. Mayor **Sharon Pratt (2025)**, and longtime journalist **Sam Ford (2024)**.

The 2026 honorees included community leader and workforce development advocate **DeJuan Mason**; **Charles Gussom**, Director of Community Programs at Martha's Table; longtime D.C. statehood advocate **Anise Jenkins**; firefighter and community leader **Romeo O. Spaulding**; and respected faith and community leaders **Pastors Christine and Dennis Wiley**.

Each represents the spirit of service, perseverance, and collective responsibility that has defined the celebration for generations.

The Next Generation of Changemakers

This week, the MLK Holiday DC Committee met to review nominations and prepare to recognize the individuals selected to serve as 2027 Grand Marshals.

The official announcement is anticipated before Thanksgiving and will introduce honorees whose leadership and service continue to strengthen neighborhoods, create opportunities, and inspire future generations.

The committee is also preparing to recognize the winning student artist whose artwork is featured on the official 2027 Save the Date, highlighting the importance of youth participation, education, and creative expression in preserving Dr. King's legacy.

Let Freedom Ring Louder Than Ever!

As communities continue to navigate social and economic challenges, the 2027 celebration will emphasize the importance of unity, civic participation, and collective action.

The theme, “Let Freedom Ring Louder Than Ever!”, serves as a call for individuals, families, schools, faith organizations, businesses, and community leaders to come together in the spirit of Dr. King's vision.

The annual celebration will feature a Peace Rally, Peace Walk, Parade, and Wellness Fair, offering opportunities for reflection, celebration, community connection, and service.

2027 Event Schedule

Monday, January 18, 2027 | Washington, D.C.

- **9:30 a.m.** – Peace Rally
- **10:30 a.m.** – Peace Walk
- **10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** – Wellness Fair
- **11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk & Parade

The celebration welcomes residents, families, community organizations, schools, faith leaders, civic groups, businesses, and visitors from throughout the region.

Media Opportunities and Community Partnerships

The MLK Holiday DC Committee invites television, radio, print, and digital media partners to help share the stories behind this historic celebration.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- The official announcement and introduction of the 2027 Grand Marshals.
- Interviews and community profiles featuring honorees and committee leadership.
- Recognition of the student art competition winner.
- Features highlighting the history and cultural significance of the Peace Walk & Parade.
- Community calendar announcements and event promotions.
- Coverage of the January 18 celebration and participating organizations.

The committee encourages media organizations and community partners to help amplify the message that Dr. King's legacy is not simply something to remember, but something to carry forward through leadership, service, and action.

The Big Reveal Is Coming Soon

The names of the 2027 Grand Marshals will be announced in the coming days.

Who will join this distinguished tradition of leadership and service?

The community is invited to stay connected, celebrate the upcoming honorees, and prepare to make freedom ring louder than ever on January 18, 2027.

For updates, participation opportunities, and additional information, visit **www.mlkholidaydc.org**.

About MLK Holiday DC

MLK Holiday DC organizes the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk & Parade in Washington, D.C., bringing together residents, community organizations, civic leaders, and families to commemorate Dr. King's life and legacy. Through its annual celebration and community engagement activities, the committee promotes unity, service, education, and the continued pursuit of peace, justice, and equality.

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