



*In honor of*  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
 "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." - Martin Luther King Jr.  
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## A day for Dahmer

Legislature commends civil rights icon



Sen. Juan Barnett speaks during the resolution presentation of Vernon Dahmer Legacy Day. Ellie Dahmer, widow of Vernon Dahmer Sr., is left of Barnett. Sen. John Horhn is right of Barnett. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

By Shanderia K. Posey  
 Editor

Fifty years after Vernon Dahmer Sr., — one of Mississippi's civil rights icons — was murdered at the hands of Klu Klux Klans, the state has honored him by designating Jan. 10, 2016, as Vernon Dahmer Legacy Day in Mississippi. Some describe the honor as long overdue. When asked about whether she thought the honor was past its time, Ellie Dahmer, widow of the civil rights leader said, "Well, you know how I feel. My husband didn't just help Blacks, he helped Whites, too."



Dahmer

Dahmer was a local businessman, farmer and leader with the NAACP in the 1960s in the Hattiesburg area, particularly the Kelly

Settlement community, which was land belonging to the Dahmer family. He was admired and respected by both Blacks and Whites. He also worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Council of Federated Organizations.

His efforts to get Blacks registered to vote, including leading voter registration drives, made him a target of white supremacists.

On Jan. 10, 1966, the KKK, under orders from Sam Bowers who was the imperial wizard of the White Knights, attacked Dahmer's store and family

home by shooting into the house and throwing containers of gas into the house. The house erupted in flames while Dahmer shot back at the attackers. Dahmer as well as his only daughter, Bettie, were injured by the flames. Dahmer later died in a hospital due to the damage to his lungs from the smoke. He was 57.

Bowers was convicted of the crime in 1998.

Dahmer's family, including his wife, Ellie, and children, Dennis, Harold, Vernon

*Dahmer*  
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## State honors King, Lee

Governor, other leaders share thoughts on holiday

By Shanderia K. Posey  
 Editor

As the state prepares to honor civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 18, state and local leaders are weighing in on whether the King holiday should no longer be shared with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Mississippi is one of three states that sets aside the third Monday in January to honor King, whose birthday is Jan. 15, and Lee, whose birthday is Jan. 19. The other states are Alabama and Arkansas.

Last week, Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced that he wants lawmakers to approve a separate day for King and cease celebrating King and Lee on the same day.

Mississippi Sen. Hillman



Frazier

Frazier, District 27, was the primary author of legislation to recognize the King holiday in the state, which was signed into law March 20, 1987. Initially, legislation went to the House Appropriations Committee and stayed there four years. A filibuster forced lawmakers to finally make a decision on the bill.

"It took several years to pass. There was so much resistant. They finally gave in and accepted it," said Frazier, who also noted that Mississippi was one of the first states to recognize the King holiday.

*Holiday*  
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## Is King's dream dead or alive in 2016?

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent  
 Contributing Writer

Since its 1954 origin the Civil Rights Movement frequently visits and rests upon America's conscience. Equally, the rise of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as its charismatic leader and orator fetched local and regional youth and adults in a random poll who spoke boldly about past and present affairs. Whether they actually marched with King as many like Presiding Elder George W. Tyler of the African Methodist Episcopal Church did, they were firm in recollection, judgment, and vision.

Not very long after Tyler's 1961 enrollment at Tougaloo College, the Civil Rights Movement became fully ablaze in the deep south section of the United States. "It made its arrival in the state with students from Tougaloo College participating in the sit-ins and the Freedom Riders invading the city of Jackson Bus Station. Being an oasis in Mississippi, the sit-in and Freedom Riders found a safe haven on the campus of Tougaloo College. On one occasion, I carried Freedom Riders from the Greyhound Bus Station in Jackson to the campus of Tougaloo College. On another, I participated in the march with Dr. King as he traveled down Bailey Avenue extension across



Rev. Caroline Claiborne of Bonner A. M. E. Church and Presiding Elder George W. Tyler of the A. M. E. Church speaking about the Civil Rights Movement and present day conditions. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

Woodrow Wilson down Railroad Avenue to the State Capitol," said Tyler.

These protests against segregation and discrimination brought Tyler back to Mississippi from the U.S. Army in 1964, enabled him to become a registered voter, stimulated the minds of the protesters and encouraged them to exercise human dignity and worthiness. Yet, poll respondents painted a picture of what American communities look like today when it comes to King's dream.

Some hovered resentment against lack of love exemplified across the nation.

*Dream*  
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## Obama summons Americans to compromise, change

By Erica Werner  
 AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON — With Americans soon to begin choosing his successor, President Barack Obama is casting his seven divisive years as a time of positive change, implicitly asking voters to replace him with a Democrat who would continue his hard-won policies on health care, climate change and Iran.

Addressing a hostile Republican-led Congress and a country plunged in a tumultuous, at times angry presidential campaign, Obama used his final State of the Union address to summon an affirmative vision of his administration and for the future. He rebutted critics, naysayers and the GOP White House hopefuls, but also acknowledged his own failure to transform the coun-



Obama AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI, POOL

try's bitter politics and unite the nation.

With a year left in office, he presented that task as more urgent than ever and pleaded with voters to turn away from harsh voices and come together.

"Democracy grinds to a halt without a willingness to compromise; or when even basic facts are contested," Obama said. "Our public life withers

*Obama*  
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## Correa named leader of Jackson Heart Study

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Adolfo Correa, a physician-scientist with a strong record of clinical care, population-based research and leadership, has been appointed director and principal investigator of the Jackson Heart Study, following a national search.

Correa was the unanimous choice of the chief executive officers of the study's three participating institutions: Jackson State University, Tougaloo College and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Their recommendation has been acknowledged by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, which provides funding support for the JHS. "The NHLBI is confident



Correa

in Correa's capacity to provide excellent leadership and stewardship over this important national study at this pivotal time in epidemiology and public health," stated Dr. Gary H. Gibbons, director of NHLBI. "We look forward to continuing to work closely with Dr. Correa to advance an evidence-based elimination of health inequities in the US and around the world — beginning with the Jackson Heart Study."

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