

## The 411

## KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

 JANUARY 2020EVERY TUESDAY AND EVERY SECOND FRIDAY Ballroom Dancing with Sterling Armstrong at Gregory's 2510 N. MLK Jr. BLVD. Lansing. MI for more info call 517-256-8051 MONTHLY-Coffee or Drinks with State Representative Sarah Anthony. For venue and times call 517-373-0826

JANUARY 18, 2020
"LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS AN AMERICAN IN PARIS" Great Cobb Hall For Times and Ticket Information call 1-800-WHARTON

JANUARY 30, 2020
"KENNY BARRON TRIO AND THE SEAN JONES QUARTET" Great Cobb Hall For Times and Ticket Information call 1-800WHARTON

JANUARY 30-31, 2020
"BASIC TRAINING" Pasant Theatre For Times and Ticket Information call 1-800-WHARTON

FEBRUARY 14, 2020
"A CELEBRATION DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR." Great Cobb Hall "A CELEBRATIONDR. MARTINLUTHER KING JR." Great
For Times and Ticket Information call 1-800-WHARTON

R.I.P. Pauline Johnson-West 1946-2019

R.I.P. Coach George Perles 1934-2020


Kenny Barron and Sean Jones to Perform at the Wharton Two titans of jazz share the stage on Thursday, January 30, for an unforgettable night of jazz. Kenny Barron's lyrical piano skills are unmatched! He has been honored by the National Endowment for the best jazz artists in the world. Sean Jones is a musical force, famous for his six-year position as the lead trumpeter at Lincoln Center Jazz. Tickets are available at the official source to purchase Wharton Center tickets online, whartoncenter.com; at the Auto-Owners Insur-
ance Ticket Office: or by calling $1-800$-WHARTON ance Ticket Office; or by calling 1-800-wHARTON.


Kenny Barron Trio picture courtesy of Wharton Center

## MLK JR. SPECIAL EDITION



Who Was Martin Luther King Jr?
Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and civil-rights activist who had a seismic impact on race relations in the United States, beginning in the mid-1950s.
Among his many efforts, King headed the Southern Christian Leadership Con ference (SCLC). Through his activism and inspirational speeches, he played a pivotal role in ending the legal segrega tion of African-American citizens in the United States, as well as the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other honors. He continues to be remembered as one of the most influential and inspirational African American leaders in history.


Origins of the MLK Holiday
Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day is no long-standing tradition, and its establishment was no sure thing. Here's how the occasion became as central to January in America as New

## Year's resolutions.

Beginning almost immediately after King's assassination, members of Congress proposed that his birthday ough to be a national holiday, but bills mandating the occasion went nowhere. The effort received more publicity when, after about a decade, shortly after the failure of a bill that was introduced by Rep. John Conyers Jr. of Michigan in September of 1979, Stevie Wonder released a song called "Happy Birthday." Despite its cheery title, it was specifically meant to make a case for the holiday, calling out anyone who didn't support the idea; Congress finally passed a bill designating King's birthday as a national holiday, to be celebrated on the third Monday in January, starting in 1986, from Times MagJanuary, start
azine excerpts. azine excerpts.

Congressman John Lewis to Serve as Keynote Speaker at 35th Annual Day of Celebration
 EAST LANSING, MI. Tickets are now available for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of MidMichigan's $35^{\text {th }}$ Annual Day of Celebration, which will take place on Monday, Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave
Tickets can be purchased at both the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, and Lansing City Hall, 124 W . Michigan Ave. Tickets are $\$ 50$ per person or $\$ 400$ for a table of eight. The theme for the 2020 luncheon is: "There Comes A Time When Silence is Betrayal." In addition to celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King, the 2020 luncheon will also commemorate the $55^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of the Selma, Ala. marches. Congressman John Lewis, often called "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced," will serve as the keynote speaker for the 2020 luncheon. Congressman Lewis was one of the leaders of the Selma marches, including the march on Bloody Sunday. Additional information about Congressman Lewis can be found on the MLK Commission's website: https://mlkmidmichigan.com/guest-speaker.
The Jan. 20 program will also include recognition of the middle school and high school students who participated and placed in the Commission's essay and scholarship program. For more information, call (517) 319-9642
Additional Related MLK Event
In coordination with the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan, with the support from Delta Dental and the MSU Broad Art Lab. Up to 20 applicants will be selected to have their work on display at the Art Lab starting January $14^{\text {th }}$ through January $21^{\text {st }}$. The even ing will include an announcement of the Grand Prize, First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up prize winners on January 14, 2020, at the MSU Broad Art Lab located at 565 E . Grand River Ave., from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The event is free to the public, for additional information call 517-884-4800.


Connecting Our Community.

## News, Views \& Commentary your life. A faithful Christian, no

## MoneyWalk 410

## Retire but Never Retired

This program will help you undo financial bondage.
the surprise of Christmas when thereafter Christians understand that one can retire from a lives on earth they should never retire from good lives on earth they should never retire from good
works. Those who continuously serve the gospel inside and outside their local church (in their homes, workplaces, social gatherings, etc.) by evangelizing other people and making disciples, show that God's love is truly in them and takes priority over anything (clearly displayed for others around you) and at oth er times covert (concealed in your lifestyle, commu nications, or private encounters with others). Paid ministry can be very valuable and sometimes is absolutely necessary within the Church, yet other types of work are just as valuable. In fact, every on of the LORD's children should see themselves as fulltime ministers as we serve in any field of legitimate work including accounting, auditing, household domestic engineering, clerical, administrative support, janitorial, doctoral, etc. Along with using the great intellect and physical ability He gives us to make the widgets, technological advances, and business increases favorable for our lives and the lives of other our ever "maturing in Christ" lifestyle and commun cation. In His kingdom and to people who see truth clearly, volunteer and low wage workers are just as valuable as high wage, executive, and famous work ers when their feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
God and those who know Him honor every one in any legitimate field who seeks to be productive and fruitful in building the kingdom of God in the hearts of men. This benefits society by reproducing men and women with godly moral fiber. For example, honor should always be placed on a wife or mother who does not work for an employer but works to of salvation and eternal life to them and other people through how she lives, maintains the home, and ple through how
communicates.
You should never retire from being fruitful in evangelizing \& discipling others. That is never God's plan for you. The bible never identifies that possibility for the faithful though you can certainly enjoy a pension and greater freedom from having to work for income because the LORD has provided and you have been disciplined to steward and grow investments to be more than enough for you to live on for the rest of
 matter his / her age, only replaces one mission field for another
group of people to which he / she will minister and never retires to a life of complete inac tivity or leisure, so the gates of hell (the devil's tactics, strategies, fiery darts, accusations, etc.) will not prevail against you. So before you retire from your current workplace, ask the Holy
Spirit to guide you in crafting a plan identifying the ministry you will engage in your next field of endeav
or.
Please pray for this ministry and email me with any questions. May the LORD bless you richly as you follow His plan! Genesis 2:3, Proverb
2Thessalonians $3: 10-14$ other people who can use helpful insight You can find books authored by Randy Parlor and Karen Parlor at www.Amazon.com

You can find many other MoneyWalk articles on Facebook by looking at the NOTES created by Randy Parlor at https://www.facebook.com/\#!/profile.php? id $=100000444069041 \&$ sk=notes
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## POETREE-N-MOTION

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GUEST8 sharing lito and duation
WORD's of powaful mothation

And EDITORALA. 8 for dop concontration
POETREE-N-MOTION

## I TOO, DREAM: Ode To Martin

I too, dream that we, as a people, will surely rise. Rise to the top, as cream rises, for we have too long been on the bottom of lif's totem pole. We can rise, if each one will reach one - if each one will teach
one - if each one will reach back and lift another to the level and status we know we must all reach one - if each one will reach back and lift another to the level and status we know we must all reach elevate ourselves to meet the challenges set before us by those insensitive to and uncaring of our needs. I dream we will continue to scrutinize the oppressions caused by racism, Jim Crowism, exploitation and disenfranchisement and see these dwindle to the point of non-existence. I dream we will overcome, for we now have more resources, around which we must unite. We now recognize more oppor-
tunities, sol implore you to persevere, dig deep, buckle down, get on with it, knuckle down, hop to it tunities, so 1 implore you to persevere, dig deep, buckle down, get on with it, knuckle down, hop to it
and just do it. I too, dream that we will soon "break loose from the shackles of prejudice..." I dream that someday there will be no need for our children to be comforted by the words of a loving parent, saying "Honey you are as good as anyone else", because there will no longer be such a label. I Iream this misplaced concept of subservience or inferiority, will be squelched, uprooted, demolished, disman
tled, and displaced. I dream that we won't let the half-truths, that flow from the forked tonge of tled, and displaced. Idream that we won't let the half-truths, that flow from the forked tongues of those yet untouched by God, keep us down. Nor will we let those half-truths impege our forward thrust
to full and total equality. I dream we will rekindle our quest for equality. We will get back on the right track- headed in the right direction, and led by the Grace of God, we'll be transformed into a blessed and prosperous nation of people of which we can all be proud to be a part. Our charge is to imbue the minds of our youth. There--build an unshakeable foundation. Instill and firmly implant within them the
urgency and the need for creative, positive and prompt action. We must let them know that their heriturgency and the need for creative, positive and prompt action. We must let them know that their herit-
age is a great legacy, coming from Royalty \& commoners; Slaves \& sharecroppers; preachers \& teachers; Kings and Queens. They must know that only through them, will we continue to be the proud and beautiful people that is our God given destiny. For Dr. King, I Too, Dream!! I too, dream that if we, as a people, will ALL pull together, we will prevent the continuous decline and deterioration of our morals, our values, and our sense of dignity for self. We'll be able to look uncertainty, indecisiveness, and ever
single challenge straight in the eye. I too, dream that we won't allow the stigma of ignorance, with single challenge straight in the eye. Itoo, dream that we won't allow the stigma of ignorance, with
which we've been so casually characterized, to interfere with our show of intelligence, impede our acquisition of higher education, or fester and taint our inner concept of self-worth. We will be able to conquer our weaknesses, fears, and most obstacles placed to hinder us. I dream with heads held high; we'll strengthen our capability to unite. We'll connect and bind. We'll join, together, we'll come togeth er, we'll bond together, and we'll support each other, so that we can become that LOUD voice to be heard and reckoned with -as should have been our unquestionable and inalienable rights from birth.
Yes Dr. King, IToo, Dream!! I too, dream that we will all come together and make the necessary sacrific es to ensure that we all have: Food enough to feed our bodies -- Education enough to enrich our minds Dignity enough to hold high our heads - Spirituality enough to encourage the soul -- Equality enough to rejuvenate our spirits -- Justice enough to calm our sense of injustice --- and Freedom enough to bring to fruition all of our hearffelt dreams. For with our cultural identity intact, our renewed vision secured, we'll press forward to a dauntless and encouraging future and we will reach the promise land. Yes, Dr.
King, I Too, Dream!!! t too, dream that one day, we won't have to have laws to make others respect us as individuals or full citizens of this nation. I dream that we will soon wipe the slate clean. Once and for all, we will wipe out the laws that have us counted as partial human beings. And oh yes, our votes will be counted, whenever and wherever they're cast, not discarded at the whim and discretion of others. dream we will soon receive every single political, social and civil right, and then have all privileges as
every other creed and race of this nation. I TOO, DREAM, 'WE'LL HAVE EQUALITY'. I dream our voices will be clearly heard-not muffled. I dream our contributions will be fully acknowledged and have their places in history-not partially accredited to us and shared by others or even yet, not noted to us at all. dream of a colorblind nation. I dream the vast hues of our skin will no longer be a distraction, will no longer determine our social status, will no longer cause negative reactions. But these beautiful and
varied hues will be recognized as the base of the Rainbow, and as the heart of the Melting varied hues will be recognized as the base of the Rainbow, and as the heart of the Melting pot of this
great Nation. I dream we will all be members of a unified and caring Human Race, and we'll be accepted, yes, fully accepted as God has always intended. We know that Dr. King left us with a great legacy. He did his best to show us the Way!! I dream we'll soon pull it all together and make Him proud of us one day! We'll hold on to our heritage and onto our cultural identity, We'll follow his lead - Rising majestically to the top, where we'll undoubtedy be totally free. We'll then say with deep conviction \&
resolve. We'll say with solemn pride. And this meaning will ring true... 1 I'll Ring loud and it'l Ring wide!! resolve. We'll say with solemn pride. And this meaning will ring true...It'II Ring loud and it'll Ring wide!!!
Its message will ring, echo and reverberate like a mighty thunderous Blast!! For Dr. King, It too, dream that One Day we'll be "Free at last." We can then all say it proudly "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, We're free at last." What is your Dream??
now, today, IS THE DAY OF HOLY SPIRIT GRACE, WISDOM, AND awareness. be stll and listen to hear her voice

This is My command: be strong and courageous. Never be afraid or discouraged because I am your God, the Eternal One, and I will remain with you wherever you go. Joshua $1: 9$ The Voice.

"The greatest thing in all my life is loving You. The greatest thing in all my life is praising You." Sung by Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sf. at West Angeles Church of God in Christ New Year services.
${ }^{\text {a }}$ AND GOD, one lesson I learned in 2019 and taking with me into 2020 is that my end is Your beginning. I can never give back to You on any appreciable level, Your Gift and gifts to me. Bless You, Co-creating God and Etemal Friend and Wisdom. As we contirue breathing the breath of God as living souls, may we practice reciprocity amid those things that bring social justice, equal opportunities, affordable health care, marriage equality, reasonable housing, joy of heart, grace, peace of mind, and unconditional love. In this new decade and new year, impress upon our Heart that You are with us always and, especially in the NOW."

For the past three years, I have developed a reciprocal relationship with Mirister (now Chaplain) Maureen Burns. At The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries Convocation 2019 (TFAM), Bishop Yvette A. Flunder, Prelate of TFAM, elevated Minister Maureen to the Office of Chaplain, the first within the City of Refuge United Church of Christ, Oakland.
As you may see in her photo, she is beaming with excitement and gratiude. My fellow Veteran has prayed for and desired to be a Chaplain since her service in the US Armed Services. I am proud to have had a hand in her advancement.

Very often, humarity is more likely to pray when there is trouble. What kind of relationship is that? A one-way relationship wherein prayer time becomes a minute or two citing a list of requests. Meditation (listening to God) is all but non-existing. Our relationship with God comes with benefits beyond our imagination. The amazing thing about Grace - gratuitous favor - is that God answers our requests and peitions.

Are you aware? Are you awoke to a reciprocal relationship with God?
Please pray for service members that are being recalled to yet another needless war.

| The Michigan Bulletin Staff |  |  |  |
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## WE SHALL OVERCOME a celebration of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 8:00pm

Inspired by the words and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., We Shall Overcome ties together a living lineage of music and culture that includes traditional gospel, modern gospel, classical, jazz, Broadway and spirituals interwoven with spoken word from Dr. King's recorded speeches. Astounding singers and a band led by music director Damien Sneed bring together songs from Aretha Franklin, Duke Ellington, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone and Donny Hathoway, as well as traditional spirituals to evoke the inspirations, struggles and triumphs of civil rights activists and defenders.

Damien Sneed was recently named a 2019 Artist-inResidence at the Carr Center in Detroit, along with Debbie Allen, George Shirley and Savion Glover.

MICHIGAN BULLETIN - Page 3
Cedebration
Announcements
By Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration
Birthdays in January 2020 I
Mr. Marquist Spencer celebrates his $40^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $1^{\text {st }}$. Marc, there will always be a special place in my heart for you my brother!!! Love always and forever, Tracy G
Mr. Juan Jordan celebrates his birthday on January $2^{\text {nd }}$
Ms. Laurie Bush celebrates her $55^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $2^{\text {nd }}$
Ms. Chari Johnson celebrates her $54^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $2^{\text {nd }}$.
Ms. Juliett Wheeler celebrates $35^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $3^{\text {rd }}$, "We love you Jewels" states her mother Ms. Betty "Capitol City" Wheeler. Mr. Daniell James celebrates his birthday on January $3^{\text {rd }}$.
Mr . Jackson D. Barron celebrates his birthday on January $3^{\text {rd }}$ Ms. Heather Keyton celebrates her birthday on January $4^{\text {th }}$. Ms. Brianna Brown celebrates her $29^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $5^{\text {th }}$. Your amily loves you very much.
Ms. Contisha Salinas celebrates her $40^{\text {th }}$ birthday January $5^{\text {th }}$ Mr. K-9 celebrates his $50^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$
Ms. Sheree Shiver celebrates her $51^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$. Mr. Dip J.D. Johnson celebrates his birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$. He par tied
Mr. Alvin Whitfield celebrates his birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$. Ms. Denise Johnson celebrated her birthday on January 6 501s in January 201Get down!!!
Ms. Jessica Robinson celebrates her $34^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$. Mr. Christopher Wimberly celebrates his $25^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$ Ms. Arianna Louden celebrates her $19^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$. Ms. Mildred Hall celebrates her birthday on January $6^{\text {th }}$
Mrs. Georgia Lee Brown (Lansing's Mother of the Year in
2013 living 100 years, 6 months and 17 days. Mrs. Brown stated, "I thank God for every moment of my life!" We... her famiy say... "To the greatest Mother on earth... Thank you for Loving us and teaching us to Love others!!!"
Mr. Randall Barron celebrates his birthday on January $7^{\text {th }}$
Ms. Brandi Day celebrates her $35^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $7^{\text {th }}$
Mr. Carson Reilly Mrazek celebrates his birthday on January $8^{\text {th }}$.
Mr. Marion Shipman celebrates his $103^{\text {rd }}$ birthday on January $8^{\text {th }}$. Mr. Jeffrey Brown celebrates his birthday on January $9^{\text {th }}$.
Ms. Angie Cooper celebrates her birthday on January $9^{\text {th }}$.
Ms. Jessica Marcolini, on January 9, 2016, celebrated her $37^{\text {th }}$ birthday with family and friends.
. Mr. Ernest Colwell celebrates his birth on January $10^{\text {th }}$. Keep the Faith!!
Mr. Mark Guy celebrated his $56^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $11^{\text {th }}$, family and friends.
Ms. Julie Lundberg celebrates her $39^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $11^{\text {th }}$, with friends.
Mrs. Coral Brown celebrates her birthday on January $12^{\text {n }}$, with her loving husband Andy, daughters Aerimya, Miakoda and Son Sequoia Mr. Mike Cole celebrates his birthday January $12^{\text {th }}$
Ms. Debra A. Warren celebrates her birthday on January $13^{\text {th }}$ Mr. Cornelius Lewis celebrates his birthday on January $13^{\text {th }}$. Right on Brother!
Mr. Thomas Glast celebrates his birth on January $13^{\text {th }}$.
Mr. Steven Childress celebrates his birthday on January $13^{\text {th }}$.
Mr. Kobe Williams celebrates his $17^{\text {th }}$ birthday on January $14^{\text {th }}$.
Mr. Kobe Williams celebrates his $17^{\text {th }}$ birthday on Jan
Ms. Beverly Lewis celebrates her birthday on January $14^{\text {th }}$
Dr. Eva Evans celebrates her birth on January $14^{\text {th }}$.
Ms. Rosemary Glast celebrates her birth on January 14
Mrs. Marta Barron celebrates her birthday on January $14^{\text {th }}$
Ms. Peach, Detroit native, celebrated her birthday on January 14 having graduated, Social Science degree from MSU, December 2016 Mr. David Vashaw AKA Bill Gierke will celebrate his $52^{\text {nd }}$ birthday on January $15^{\text {th }}$, with family and friends
Mr. Ernest Wallick celebrates his birthday on January $15^{\text {th }}$
Mr. Melvin Hackel celebrates his birthday on January $15^{\text {th }}$
Anniversaries
Mr. Claude and Mrs. Woodia Browne were married on January $3^{\text {rd }}$ "To GOD be the Glory!!!
y names to be removed
Mr. Party Website: mrpartycelebrationservice.com Face book Page: www.facebook.com/mrpartycserv portron International: www.mrparty.sportron.com Offering Optimum Health/Financial Security"
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Please send the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life: Celebration Announcements


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## 2020 LAMSIMG SCHOOL DISTRICT SHEWEAGE




## New health department campaign, "This is life with

 HIV," shares stories of local people, dispels mythsLANSING, Mich. - Life with HIV looks a lot different today than it did 30 years ago. That is the message of "This is life with HIV," a campaign just launched by the Ingham County Health Department and Ingham Community Health Centers to share accurate information about what living with HIV means.
The campaign addresses misinformation and features local people living with HIV. People are encouraged to get tested and, if positive, connect to care. Testing and care are available at Forest Community Health Center through the health department and the Ryan White Program
"People living with HIV can live long, happy and healthy lives," said Ingham County Health Officer Linda S. Vail. "Modern treatment options are drastically improved, but unfortunately work to reduce stigma around HIV hasn't made as much progress There is a lot of unnecessary fear and outdated beliefs in our community when it comes to HIV. Addressing this is key to HIV prevention and treatment."
The campaign shares the stories of local people living with HIV and is initially launch ing with two local campaign models. One is Jackie, a grandmother who is living with HIV and who has opted to use a pseudonym, and the second is Jonathan, a writer who is living with HIV.
"Most people are surprised when they hear the worst part of having HIV is just the hatred and death wishes from the community," said campaign model Jonathan Thurston. "People treat me like a walking disease, but, realistically, since I'm on meds, I'm about as contagious as someone with diabetes."
The campaign will run through September 2021 and will continue to recruit local models throughout the campaign to show the diversity of people living with HIV in Mid-Michigan. Approximately 500 people in Ingham County are living with HIV. The campaign will recognize World AIDS Day with a free, confidential HIV testing event at Forest Community Health Center located 2316 S. Cedar Street in Lansing from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 2. Everyone tested will receive a free gift card. Campaign materials will also be on display.
The campaign is largely funded by an HIV Care Coordination grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. For more information and to read more about Jackie and Jonathan, visit www. lifewithhiv.org


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Heather Cooper Kim, CMP, CTA Sales Manager 517-377-1401 hkim@lansing.org


The work of Dr. King goes on and is just as urgent today as it was when he spoke on the Capitol mall.
The landmark successes of Dr. King's are the framework that we use today - to build a world where equal justice is a reality.
Today we celebrate the life and work of Dr. King in building the future for African Americans, and moving toward a future where all can enjoy "the riches of freedom and the security of justice," to quote Dr. King.
Far too many African Americans and other marginalized groups - In Ingham County and around the United States can't share in our nation's prosperity due to the structural racism of socioeconomic inequality. When African Americans are overrepresented in jails and prisons, and under-represented in colleges and corporate boardrooms, the work of creating real justice is left to us and to future generations.

Carol A. Siemon
Ingham County Prosecutor


Ingham County
Prosecutor's Office
303 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-6108
pa.ingham.org

## W H

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SERVICE IN OUR JUDICIARY January 20,2020 , marks the 25 th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This day is observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve service toencourage allAmericanstovolunteertoimprove
their communities for everyone. As a jurist and attorney, this is a special time to reflect on the role of law, attorneys and our judiciary in protecting the rights of everyone and assuring equal access to justice.
In choosing this vocation from a young girl, my primary focus was to serve others and to positively impact my community. It was not enough to just earn a living; which was obviously important, but I wanted to contribute to improving my community. And while it may sound cliché, I did not want my living on this earth to be in vain. It was through the law that I saw my opportunity to make a difference. Through my life experiences, I've learned not only what to do to improve the lives of others, but what Not to do! I bring all of these lessons to the bench with me every day and in every decision I render. Following the rule of law makes a positive difference in the lives of everyone!

Ingham County has a rich history of celebrating the MLK holiday with various longstanding events around the countr, such as Lansing's MLK, Jr. Luncheon held at the Lansing Center. It also now celebrates one of the most diverse judiciaries in the State for a county our size. For example, on our $30^{\text {th }}$ Circuit Court bench, 6 of the 9 judges are women; as well as all 4 of our $54-\mathrm{A}$ District Court judges are women! Ingham County courts can be proud of its diversity, where the many cultures in our community are represented. Now, when our citizens come into our courts, they are likely to see someone who looks like them presiding on the bench. This is a great reflection of our core values in Ingham County, and commitment to making the principles of equality under the law a reality.
The diversity milestones we have reached in Ingham County make me proud to be part of our legal system and the judiciary. It is such a rewarding and historic time to serve our community as we continue to "bend the arch toward justice". Dr. King's dream is alive!

