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Ohio marks 50 years since MLK's tragic death

Statehouse ceremony will celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy

COLUMBUS (March 15, 2018) — The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at noon, Wednesday, April 4 in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in downtown Columbus. The free public ceremony titled “50-Year Legacy: an MLK Memorial Event” will celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy.

Speakers will include the Rev. Joel L. King, Jr., a first cousin of the late Civil Rights leader, and David Jehnsen, chair and founding trustee of the Institute for Human Rights and Responsibilities and leader of a Chicago-based delegation to the 1963 March on Washington. The Columbus State Community College Gospel Vocal Ensemble also will perform.

The commission, together with The King Center in Atlanta and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, are asking people and organizations throughout Ohio to pause for a moment of remembrance and reflection that evening at 7:01 p.m. (ET). During this moment of national reflection, churches - and others able to do so - are being asked to toll bells 39 times marking the time, as well as Dr. King's age, when the assassination took place 50 years ago.

The commission is housed in the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which provides centralized support for state agencies. For more information about the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, visit das.ohio.gov/mlk.

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