



01 January 2016

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance

Each year we pay homage to one of our Nation's greatest champions of justice and racial equality, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A leading pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, King gave hope to millions and challenged America to make good on the promise of equality guaranteed by our Founding Fathers in the U.S. Constitution.

As King once famously extrapolated, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Throughout his life he epitomized this credo and refused to remain silent in the face of discrimination. Dr. King demonstrated true courage, commitment to what is right, and unfathomable character.

As stewards of our profession we strive to live up to those same values and fulfill his vision to create a world where individuals are "not judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

We draw strength from the diversity of our formations and remain vigilant in our efforts to eradicate discrimination from our community. As leaders of courage, character, competence and commitment we set the standard for others to follow.

During this year's observance we are scheduled to host commemorative events throughout the Eighth Army footprint. I invite you to attend as we celebrate Dr. King's life and learn more about the positive impact his example and teachings had on America.

Eighth Army is Strong and Getting Stronger!

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

BERNARD S. CHAMPOUX
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding