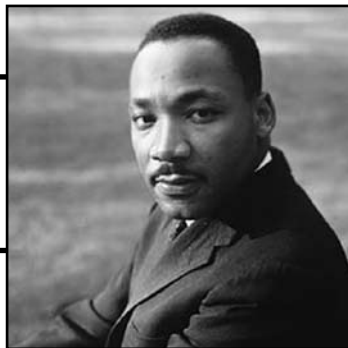


Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



“I have a dream...”

PAST

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born: January 15, 1929

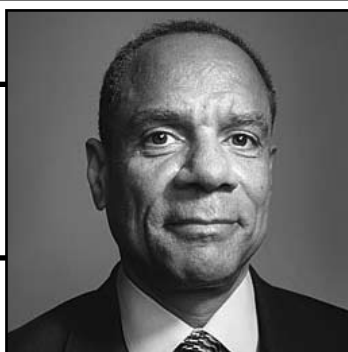
Contribution: Human Civil Rights



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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the most important voice of the American civil rights movement, which worked for equal rights for all. He was famous for using nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice, and fighting to end segregation laws (laws that prevented blacks from entering certain places, such as restaurants, hotels, and public schools). He also did all he could to make people realize that “all men are created equal.” In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”, a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, “I Have A Dream”, he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks yet also a world figure. Because of his great work, in 1964, at the age of 35, King received the Nobel Peace Prize -- the youngest person ever to receive this high honor. King was also a Baptist minister. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was 39 years old. His birthday is observed as a national holiday on the third Monday in January.



A “Living Pioneer”

PRESENT

Kenneth Chenault

Born: June 02, 1951

Contribution: Business



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Kenneth Chenault was born in Long Island. He attended the Waldorf School of Garden City, received a B.A. in History from Bowdoin College in 1973, and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1976. After Harvard he worked as an associate with the law firm Rogers & Wells in New York City, and as a consultant for Bain & Company. He joined American Express in 1981, working in strategic planning. Then in 1997, he became the President and CEO of American Express and in so doing became the third African-American CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

He is currently co-chair of the Business Roundtable, a director at IBM, and a member at the Council of Foreign Relations. In 1995, Ebony listed him alongside Michael Jordan, Rosa Parks, Bill Cosby and Colin Powell as one of 50 “living pioneers” in the African-American community.

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?