

Connecticut Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

CHRO, 21 Grand Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 541-3451

Contact: Dennis J. King
Chairperson
Phone (860)-594-2820



Press Release

#12-07

State of Connecticut's Twenty Second Anniversary Ceremony to Honor Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 21, 2008 at the State Capitol Announces the 2008 Martin Luther King Jr. Award Recipients

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will present awards to outstanding citizens in Connecticut in three different areas of service during the official state ceremony to commemorate the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 21, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

At Connecticut's annual tribute at the Capitol, **Mr. James Barber of Southern Connecticut State University** will receive the Leadership Award, **Former State Treasurer, Henry "Hank" Parker**, will receive the Community Service Award and **Mr. Carlton Highsmith, President of the Specialized Packaging Group, Inc.**, will receive the Humanitarian Award.

"We are truly pleased to have such an array of individuals who reflect, in their daily walk, the aspiration of Dr. King. By helping others, they have helped to keep "The Dream" and the "Dreamer" alive", says the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission's Chairperson, Dennis J. King of Waterbury, who will preside over the Ceremony.

During this national holiday celebration, governors of states across the nation simultaneously ring replicas of the Liberty Bell in honor of Dr. King's birthday and in honor of the twenty-second anniversary, bells will be rung across the state of Connecticut at precisely 12:00 p.m.

The Commission will host a reception for legislators and dignitaries and guests in the Old Judiciary Room at the Capitol at 10:00 a.m. the morning of the ceremony. Invited guests include the Governor, Federal and State Officials, Legislators and the State of Connecticut Constitutional officers. The celebration is free to the public, and will include a variety of presentations, choirs, and speakers. Seating for the ceremony is limited. The Capitol Building is accessible through the west entrance to persons with disabilities.