

# Connecticut Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

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## Press Release

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### State of Connecticut's Twenty-Third Anniversary Ceremony to Honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Announces the 2009 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 19, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the State Capitol.

At Connecticut's Twenty Third annual tribute at the Capitol, **Mr. Mark Robinson, President of S/R Communications Alliance, will receive the Leadership Award; Mr. Scot X. Esdaile, State President of the Connecticut NAACP, will receive the Community Service Award; Ms. Gloria McAdam, President and CEO of FOODSHARE, will receive the Humanitarian Award; and former Director of the Hartford Housing Authority, John Wardlaw, will be honored with the Chairman's 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-third 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 keynote speaker for the event will be the Rev. Dr. Vance Cotton from Shiloh Baptist Church in Middletown.** The celebration is free to the public, and will include a variety of presentations, choirs, and speakers including **the Hopewell Baptist Concert Choir and the Shiloh Baptist Praise Ministry.** Seating for the ceremony is limited. The Capitol Building is accessible through the west entrance to persons with disabilities.