

Bennett and Fannie Mae will be feted at the King Center

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

ATLANTA - Legendary entertainer, performing artist, activist and humanitarian Tony Bennett, and Fannie Mae, represented by Franklin E. Raines, chairman and chief executive officer, will be honored on Jan. 20 at The King Center's annual Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner during the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance.

"I'm delighted that our King holiday program will feature Tony Bennett, Franklin Raines of Fannie Mae and Bishop Eddie L. Long, said King Center founder Coretta Scott King. "Tony is not only one of America's premier performing artists, but he was a deeply-committed friend and supporter of my husband and the Civil Rights Movement, and he has continued to support the efforts of The King Center to fulfill Martin's dream, along with so many other great causes."

Mrs. King said that Franklin Raines will represent Fannie Mae, which is being honored for its leadership in securing "quality, affordable housing for people of all races." She said that Bishop Eddie L. Long, "one of America's most dynamic preachers and eloquent advocates of economic empowerment," will bring a powerful message of faith, compassion and service in his sermon at the MLK Day services.

The Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner is the primary fund-raiser for The King Center and will be held at the Hyatt Regency-Downtown Atlanta on Sunday, Jan. 20, as part of The King Center's Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance.

Bishop Eddie L. Long, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, will deliver the keynote address at The Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Commemorative Service to be held at historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 21. About 1,700 seats are being made available



KRT Photo

Famous crooner and longtime civil rights advocate Tony Bennett arrives at a recent awards show. Bennett will soon be arriving at Atlanta's King Center to receive an award.

through Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Horizon Sanctuary this year to increase participation in the service via large-screen televisions. Long is pastor to a congregation of some 25,000 at New Birth, in Lithonia, Ga., just outside of Atlanta.

As the spiritual hallmark of the King Holiday Observance and model for remembrance services held across the nation in honor of Dr. King, The King Center's Commemorative Service is an ecumenical celebration of his life and legacy through prayers, tributes, music and Scriptural readings. The 34th annual King Center program will mark Dr. King's 73rd birthday, and the 16th anniversary of the King Holiday. The service will be televised live for the 29th year by WAGA-TV Fox 5.

Engaging in humanitarian service projects and conducting celebration and remembrance programs that emphasize interna-

cial cooperation, his message of love, justice, and peace remains the most appropriate way to honor Dr. King and his nonviolent philosophy on Jan. 21.

Preparations are well under way for coordinating the national MLK Holiday, which is now observed in all 50 states and in various ways throughout the world. The King Center has again teamed up with national partner The Corporation for National Service to promote and coordinate "Day of Service" activities throughout the nation and the world on the holiday.

Other key Atlanta events scheduled during the 2002 King Holiday Observance, Jan. 18-21, include:

- State of Georgia Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission Awards Program - Jan. 28, noon, at the State Capitol. More information may be obtained by calling (404) 463-2555.

- Book signing in the King Center Gift Shop - Saturday, Jan. 19, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Coretta-Scott King will sign books, including: the newly-released "A Call to Conscience," a collection of Dr. King's historic speeches; "A Knock at Midnight," a book of Dr. King's memorable sermons; "The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.," and "Martin Luther King, Jr. on Leadership".

- The Martin Luther King Jr. Service Summit - Saturday through Monday, Jan. 19-21. Co-sponsored with Hands on Atlanta, the Service Summit is a conference exploring ways ordinary citizens can make a difference in the world through service to humanity that connects hundreds of participants to service projects throughout Atlanta. The Martin Luther King, Jr. 2002 Holiday Observance will be commemorated in some form in more than 100 nations around the world.

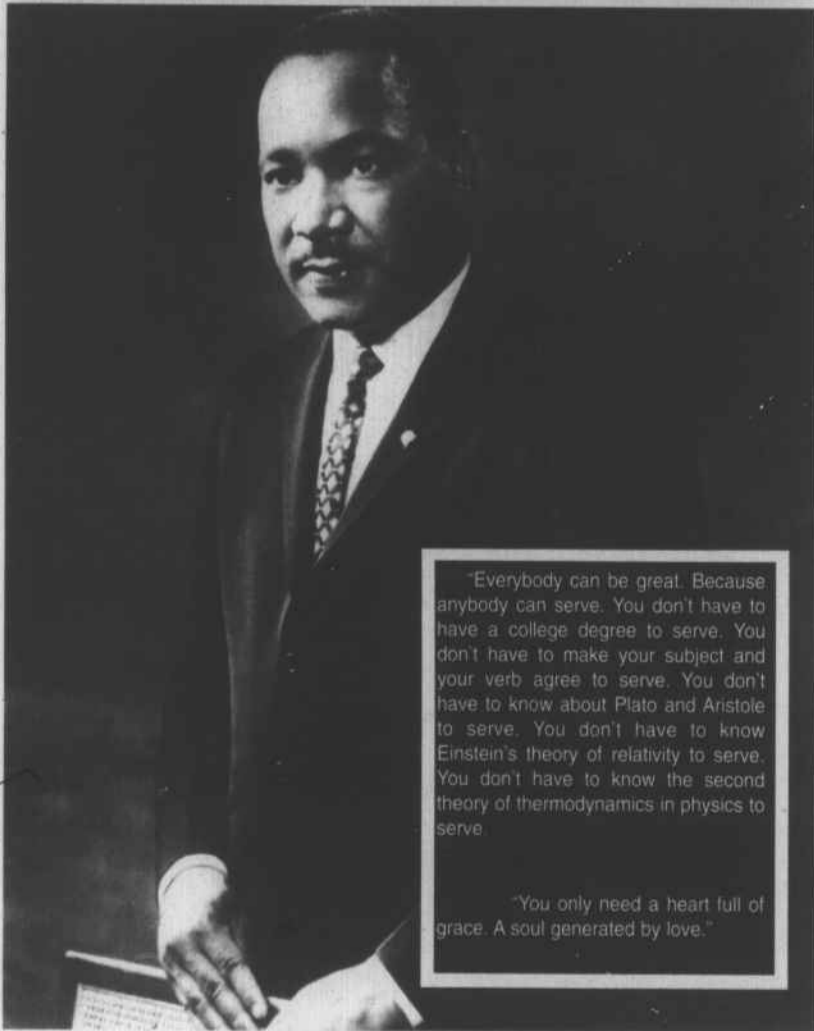
The Atlanta-Based King Center continues to promote the views and ideas of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A number of King products are available online at the King Center store. Proceeds from the items go to help the center carry out its mission. The center's address is www.thekingcenter.org.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

January 21, 2002

A Celebration and an Inspiration



"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve."

"You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."



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