

AMERICA THE GREATEST®

America is the greatest nation in the world because she has allowed her citizens the opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness." Citizens such as
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

- Born:** January 15, 1929 (Capricorn), the second of three children in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Died:** April 4, 1968.
- Father:** Martin Luther King, Sr., minister.
- Mother:** Alberta (Williams) King, school teacher.
- Education:** Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, B.A., 1948. Crozer Theological Seminary, Boston University, Ph.D., 1955.
- Accomplishment:** Civil rights leader, 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born and raised in Atlanta. At age six, he and his father changed their names from Michael Luther King to Martin Luther King, in honor of the great Protestant leader. King had a comfortable but segregated childhood.

While at his father's alma mater, Morehouse College, King was convinced to go into the ministry by Benjamin Mays, the school's president, and George Kelsey, professor of philosophy. His first church after earning his Ph.D., was the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. There he preached non-violence and integration.

On December 1, 1955, after working all day, Montgomery black seamstress Mrs. Rose Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white person. This action sparked the 382-day Montgomery Bus Boycott, directed by the Montgomery Improvement Association (of which King was president). This bitter non-violent action resulted in the integration of Montgomery's bus system beginning December 21, 1956, and made Martin Luther King a national figure. He then moved to Atlanta, became co-pastor (with his father) of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, and became first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference after its founding in January, 1957.

In the tradition of his idol, Mahatma Gandhi, King was America's foremost advocate of using non-violence and civil disobedience to obtain racial equality and justice. For his work he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and at age thirty-five, was the youngest recipient of that award. His tragic assassination on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, will long be mourned.

A nation is as great as the sum total of the greatness of its individuals. America offers her people more opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness" than any other nation on earth. I challenge you to develop yours!

Today we honor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Tomorrow could we honor you?

Dr. Michael R. Loss.

DR. MICHAEL R. LOSS

President, America The Greatest, Inc.®