



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 2010

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### **DR. J. ALFRED SMITH, SR. TO BE HONORED AT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST**

Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda), Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, is proud to announce the Second Annual King Legacy Breakfast, to formally recognize the commitments and extensive contributions of several honorees exemplifying the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The special breakfast is on January 21, 2010, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. Attendees will include Members of the California State Legislature, California Constitutional Officers, and other governmental and business dignitaries.

Legacy Award winners will be announced at the breakfast, and there will be a special performance by the Young Adult Choir of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. (GMWA). GMWA was founded in 1967 and is the largest artistic organization of its kind in the world, with over 75,000 members in more than 185 chapters stretching from the United States to Asia. The Sacramento Chapter of GMWA includes the New Generation Youth Choir and the Young Adult Choir. The Young Adult Choir has performed at Sacramento's Black Expo, the California State Fair, and the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at the Sacramento Convention Center. This talented group has sung backup for world-renowned singers, including Norman Hutchins and Martha Munizza, and performed at the Governor's Christmas Tree Lighting and Lt. Governor Garamendi's Inauguration.

Speaker-elect John Pérez is scheduled to speak and make opening remarks on the significance of King's legacy and its relevance during these tough economic times and circumstances.

Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., keynote speaker and special honoree, has written and edited dozens of books and articles regarding theology and encouraging equal justice through prophetic work. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master's of Theology from the American Baptist Seminary of the West. He is a Pastor Emeritus of Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California, and a professor of Preaching and Church Ministries at American Baptist Seminary of the West. Following the Legacy Breakfast, Dr. Smith will be honored with an Assembly Resolution commending his commitment to social justice and equality for all.

"This is a very important historic time to celebrate and remember Dr. King's legacy. During this time of economic uncertainty and instability, it is important to honor our commitment to the less fortunate and continue working towards building a brighter future for all of our children," said Assemblymember Swanson.

This is the Second Annual King Breakfast hosted by the California Legislative Black Caucus. Last year's honorees included Attorney General Jerry Brown; the State NAACP; Former Senate President Pro Tem, David Roberti; Former Speaker, Willie L. Brown, Jr.; and the author of the King state holiday legislation, former Assemblymember Elihu Harris.

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