



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

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Attorney General Jerry Brown, Chancellor Elihu Harris To Be Honored For Passage Of State Day Of Remembrance For Martin Luther King, Jr.

(Sacramento) -- Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth, the California Legislative Black Caucus will host a special breakfast event to honor Attorney General Jerry Brown, Chancellor Elihu Harris, and others with the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award" for their work in making Dr. King's birthday an official state day of remembrance. Following the breakfast, the State Assembly will hold its annual Dr. King Remembrance Ceremony, and will also acknowledge all honorees on the floor of the Assembly, announced Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda), who Chairs the Legislative Black Caucus.

Both Attorney General Brown and Chancellor Harris have confirmed their participation in the event.

"Dr. King's legacy is more important now than ever. With the impending inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama, we are reminded once again that historical changes in our country are due to the work of those who have come before us. Dr. King is one of those historic leaders who we must pay tribute to, and in honoring his legacy, we should honor those who helped make his life an official day of remembrance in our state," Assemblymember Swanson stated.

The full list of honorees are: Attorney General Brown, who was Governor at the time, Chancellor Harris, who as a Member of the Assembly authored the legislation, former Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., who was Speaker of the Assembly at the time, former Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti who served as the leader of the Senate, the California State Conference NAACP, which marshaled grass roots support for the bill, and McClymmond's High School in Oakland, which had sponsored the bill for 13 consecutive years.

The day will begin with a special breakfast reception where honorees will receive commemorative plaques, and will speak briefly on the work they did. Soon afterwards, the Assembly will hold a special ceremony on the Assembly Floor, with honorees receiving Assembly Resolutions of Recognition. A press availability will follow Session.

"We must always honor those who have helped build the foundation that will advance and support the dreams of the next generation. We applaud all Californians who are continuing their work in support of Dr. King's legacy during these historic times of our nation." Assemblymember Swanson concluded.

The bill officially honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was Assembly Bill 312, which was signed by then-Governor Jerry Brown on September 3 rd, 1981.

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Note to press: The press availability will take place after the Assembly has completed all other business, including the State of the State Address.

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