

# 40TH ANNUAL RUBY RED DAY OF SERVICE COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THEME: "THE MOUNTAINTOP TODAY"

*Keynote Speaker:* Rev. Thomas L. Bowen

*Mistress of Ceremony:* Tiffany Tarpley

News 5 Good Morning Cleveland Anchor/ Reporter

## WHEN

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026**

**10:30 am- 2:00 pm**

## WHERE

**COMMEMORATIVE WALK**

**ELY SQUARE (10:30 am)**

## DAY OF SERVICE PROGRAM

**ELYRIA HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS**

**CENTER (11:00 am)**

**600 West Avenue, Elyria, Ohio**

## SERVICE PROJECT

Please bring hoodies for the unhoused  
(sizes sm, md, lg, x-lg) to contribute to our  
Day of Service Community Project

## RESOURCE FAIR

**(12:30-2:00 pm)**

- African American Community Fund
- Communities of Color
- Elyria Black Legacy Connection
- Elyria Community Partnership
- Elyria NBPWC, Inc.
- Elyria Parks & Recreation
- Elyria Public Library
- Lorain County Alumni Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Lorain County Community College
- Lorain County NCNW, Inc.

**ELYRIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION**

40th ANNUAL RUBY RED DAY OF SERVICE COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

# Elyria Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

Monday January 19, 2026

Elyria High School Performing Arts Center

600 West Avenue, Elyria, Ohio

*Keynote Speaker:*

**Rev. Thomas L. Bowen**

*Mistress of Ceremony:*

**Ms. Tiffany Tarpley**

**WEWS Good Morning Cleveland- Anchor/ Reporter**

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*January 15, 1929- April 4, 1968*

# The 'Mountaintop' Today

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will"

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

# THEME: “THE MOUNTAINTOP TODAY”

10:30 a.m. Commemorative Walk from Ely Square to Elyria High School

11:00 am. - Dr. Martin Luther King , Jr. Day of Service Program

Opening Remarks/

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony

Annie Carstarphen-Cheeseboro

Presentation of Colors/ Pledge of Allegiance

Army J.R.O.T.C Color Guards  
Elyria High School

Drumline

Icon Preparatory School

National Anthem Video

Rev. Dr. Carl P. Small  
Second Baptist Church

Mistress of Ceremony

Tiffany Tarpley-News 5  
Good Morning Cleveland Anchor/ Reporter

Invocation

Elder James R. Furcron Jr.  
True Vine Primitive Baptist Church

Icon School

Welcome Address/ Proclamation

Mayor Kevin A. Brubaker  
City of Elyria  
Superintendent Ann Schloss  
Elyria City School District

Introduction of Speaker

Ethan West - Elyria Black  
Legacy Connection

Musical Tribute

P.U.R.P.O.S.E Reunion Choir  
Pastor Gwen Gilmore /Music Dir. Tommie D. Harris

“The Mountaintop Today”

Rev. Thomas L. Bowen

2026 Dr. King Awards

Denita Tolbert

Remarks

Regan L. Phillips

Benediction

Pastor Elijah Wreh  
Anointed Church of Christ

Retirement of Colors

Army J.R.O.T.C Color Guards  
Elyria High School

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**ELYRIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION**

# Lift Every Voice and Sing Lyrics

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won  
Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chast'ning rod  
Felt in the day that hope unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place on which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our star is cast  
God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who has by thy might  
Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee  
Least our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee  
Shadowed beneath the hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God  
True to our native land

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a hymn with lyrics written by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother J. Rosamond Johnson. Often referred to as the Black national anthem, it is a powerful piece of American history.*

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KING, JR.

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# Tiffany Tarpley

News 5

Good Morning Cleveland Anchor/ Reporter

## Mistress of Ceremony

Tiffany Tarpley is a graduate of Bowling Green State University – there she earned her Bachelor of Science in Broadcast Journalism. Before that, she completed coursework in Television Production at Lorain County Community College – there she also earned transfer credits toward her degree. Tarpley is also a graduate of Lorain Admiral King High School.

Tarpley works for WEWS ABC 5 as a Morning Anchor and Reporter, appearing in the program, “Good Morning Cleveland”. Before that, she worked at WTOL 11 in Toledo, OH as a Morning News Anchor – this was from December 2020 to December 2023. From March 2014 to December 2020, she was a Reporter, MMJ, Host, and Anchor at WKYC-TV in Cleveland.

Prior to that, Tarpley served as a Reporter and Fill-in Anchor at WDJT CBS 58 (from September 2010 to February 2014). From October 2004 to September 2010, she worked at WUPW Fox Toledo as a Weekend News Producer, Anchor, and Reporter – there she earned 2 regional Emmys and a nomination for ‘Outstanding Weekend Newscast’. Also, she held a role as an Anchor and Reporter at WOHL-TV/WLMO-TV in Lima – this was from February 2004 to October 2004, and began her career at WTOL in Toledo as a Photographer, Video Editor, and Fill-in Reporter (from May 2003 to February 2004).

Tarpley says some of her most unforgettable stories are reporting on Cleveland protests, covering Marine boot camp in South Carolina, and even interviewing her own mothers – for tips on grocery shopping. Throughout her career, she has earned several honors like 2 Emmy Awards for her weekend newscasts in Toledo. Also, she holds an Emmy Award nomination which she received for live reporting in Cleveland, OH. Tarpley was also recognized by both the Lorain Schools Alumni Association and LCCC’s Commodore Hall of Fame. She says that her approach to news is guided by 3 key values: integrity, accuracy, and authenticity.

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# Rev. Thomas L. Bowen

## Keynote Speaker

Rev. Thomas L. Bowen is a nationally respected faith leader, preacher, and public servant whose work bridges faith, justice, and public life. A graduate of Morehouse College, he pursued ministerial and theological studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School and has devoted his career to advancing equity, civic engagement, and community empowerment.



Rev. Bowen previously served as Senior Advisor for Faith Engagement in the White House Office of Public Engagement in the Biden-Harris Administration and has held senior leadership roles in local government and nonprofit organizations, including nearly eight years as Director of the Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs for the District of Columbia. He is the Founder and Chief Engagement Officer of EngageFaith and serves as the Earl L. Harrison Minister of Social Justice at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

A native of Elyria, Ohio, Rev. Bowen brings a lifelong commitment to service, shaped by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the prophetic tradition of the Black Church. Earlier in his career, he served on the Elyria City School Board, where he was twice elected, reflecting a deep and enduring commitment to public service and education.



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# 2026 ELYRIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION AWARDS

Cultural Award

P2R Training and Resource Center, Inc.

Education

Troy Hill

Health Equity

Family Planning Services of Lorain County

Youth Leadership Award

Dekarion Wimberly

## COMMISSION MEMBERS/ ORGANIZATIONS

Brad Armstrong

Denita L. Tolbert Brown

Mayor Kevin A. Brubaker

Azalea Carter

Rev. Anthony L. Carter

Annie Carstarphen-Cheeseboro

Dr. LaTaunya V. Conley

Constance J. Drummer

Elyria Black Legacy Connection

Kenneth Frankel

Pastor Gwendolyn Gilmore

Christopher Lococo

Kionna McIntosh- Pharms

Jazmynn Montanez

Regan L. Phillips

Carrie Reardon

Monet Roberts

Sybil Roseboro

JR Simons

Rev. Dr. Carl P. Small

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 SUPPORTERS

Thomas G. Callahan

Mayor Kevin Brubaker

Thaddeus Pileski- City of Elyria Finance Director

Mr. Gary & Mary Siwierka

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin & Annie Cheeseboro

Constance Drummer

Mr. Timothy & Carrie Reardon

Mr. Steve & Regan Phillips

Tom Orlando - Lorain County Clerk of Court

Elyria Arts Council

Elyria Black Legacy Connection

Elyria City Schools

Elyria Police Department

Elyria Street Department

Community Foundation of Lorain County

Lorain County Urban League

Greater Christ Temple Church

Metro Central NAACP Unit #3183

Mr. & Mrs. Markel & Kionna Pharms

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Elyria

Simply Elegant Affairs

Denita Tolbert

True Vine Primitive Baptist Church

