



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *113th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

The Honorable Jeff Miller of the First District of Florida

Washington, Monday, September 9, 2013

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S "I HAVE A DREAM"

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. This incredibly moving oration set the stage to bring equal rights to all people; his words are as poignant and touching today as they were when spoken fifty years ago.

From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered this now famous speech while hundreds of thousands of onlookers participated in the March on Washington. The speech began with reference to the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States and brought about hope for the future; however, Dr. King continued to highlight how there was still more work to be done, even one hundred years after Lincoln made that address. Then, through an artful combination of skilled writing and improvisation, Dr. King delivered what is arguably one of the most memorable speeches of our Nation's history.

In his speech, Dr. King envisioned a Nation where the families of former slaves and those of former slave owners would live together in harmony. He urged people to look past years of racial segregation, injustice, and inequality to join together as one. He did so, as all parents would, with the hope that his children could live in a land free from hatred. Dr. King stated that this was the freedom that our Founding Fathers fought so hard to protect, so we owed it to them and ourselves to

create this change.

Perhaps Dr. King did not know how monumental this one speech would become to the American civil rights movement. It allowed many Americans to reflect on years of racial separation and realize that change was on the horizon. Unfortunately, Dr. King did not live to see this dream realized, but his "I Have a Dream" speech helped pave the way for the success of the civil rights movement and remains an important lesson on history and equality to this day.

As organizations throughout our Nation join in commemorating the anniversary of this momentous speech, I would like to recognize and thank Operation People for Peace, and its Chairman Arthur Rucker, Sr., who has partnered with over four hundred churches and organizations throughout the Gulf Coast to collect food donations to help feed thousands of families, as well as, thank the Southern Christian Leadership Conference chapters of the Gulf Coast, the National Congress of Black Women chapters of the Gulf Coast, and all organizations across Northwest Florida for their efforts. We are truly blessed to have these organizations helping to keep the memory of Dr. King's words fresh in the minds of the people in our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to recognize the

Fiftieth Anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking those throughout Northwest Florida for hosting celebrations along the Gulf Coast to commemorate this incredible speech. Most importantly, we would like to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his tremendous service to this Nation and his efforts to put an end to racial inequality.