

# Carlisle Barracks celebrates life, legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*Robert Martin and Thomas Zimmerman, Public Affairs*

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*Army War College faculty member Col. Sylvester Brown was the guest speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Jan. 20 in Wil Waschoe Auditorium. Brown challenged those in attendance to determine what we are to celebrate, what we should remember and what we should act upon, during his presentation on Dr. King. want*

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Carlisle Barracks honored the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King during an event Jan. 20 highlighted by remarks from a reverend, Army colonel and fellow southerner, Army War College faculty member Col. Sylvester Brown.

Brown challenged those in attendance to determine what we are to celebrate, what we should remember and what we should act upon, during his presentation on Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

“We honor not only the words but the principles by which he lived and died,” said Brown.

He reinforced his point by noting that the make-up of the people in Wil Waschoe that day to hear him speak were a reflection of the vision King had for America.

“What we see here is part of his legacy,” he said. “Black, white, men and women, all together at this great institution to learn. We are living his dream.”

During his 45-minute talk, Brown addressed both the successes and failures of events of the civil rights movement that were led by King and how lessons from both can be applied to complex problems today.

“The Birmingham letter shows the strategic leadership of Dr. King, and his focus and how he wanted to bring to life his ideals,” said Brown. “It’s a great example of how a leader can communicate his vision to others in order for them to act on it.”

Dr. King rose from a new minister in Montgomery, Al., in 1955 to a figure of national prominence, from the Montgomery bus boycott to his inspiring speech on the steps of the Lincoln memorial. Brown said that King will always be remember for his belief in civil disobedience and non-violence to promote change.

“Reverend King gave me hope and this is one of the things he really communicated, his vision was so full of hope,” said Brown. “What Reverend Martin Luther King wanted so much was to raise awareness of the condition of ourselves, for self-evaluation, to realize, we can do better.”

Brown said that while the world is in a much different place than the 1960’s, there is still work left to be done.

“Dr. King helped give us insight into the better us,” he said. “Now each of us needs to self-examine and use self-discipline. We need to look at ourselves and see if what we are doing is best for all. We need to be honest with ourselves, are we part of the solution or part of the problem?”

Don’t wait, act now and stand up for what’s right.”