



— **PRESS RELEASE** —
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Sen. Days Invites Missourians to Honor MLK at the Capitol

JEFFERSON CITY – State Senator Rita Heard Days, D-St. Louis, is encouraging Missourians to join her at the annual commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Wednesday, January 16 in the Capitol Rotunda.

The theme of the annual event, hosted by the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus, is “Embracing the Vision/Fulfilling the Dream.”

The guest speaker for the 2008 MLK celebration and tribute will be the Reverend Kim L. Gladney of Kansas City. Gladney began preaching at the age of 18 in Topeka, Kansas before relocating to Kansas City, Missouri to join the Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as Associate Minister for 8 years. In 1992, Rev. Gladney moved to the Pastor Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church and is in his 15th year as pastor. Rev. Gladney also serves as Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention and as Communication Officer for the National Baptist Convention of American Youth Congress. He and his wife Denice have three children.

“Reverend Gladney is a truly remarkable man and a wonderful speaker,” Sen. Days said. “We are thrilled he has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our annual tribute to Dr. King.”

The event also features tributes to Dr. King’s legacy from members of the Missouri Black Legislative Caucus and an interpretive dance from the Lincoln University Dance Troupe.

Sen. Days said the theme of this year's celebration is embodied in this poem from Missouri native Langston Hughes:

There is a dream in the land/With its back against the wall ...Unless shared in common/Like sunlight and like air/The dream will die for lack/Of substance anywhere ... This dream today embattled/With its back against the wall/To save the dream for one/It must be saved for all.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Tribute will begin at 7 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City and is open to the public.