



MISSOURI SENATE

Jeff Smith
4th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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State Senator Jeff Smith Calls Annual Beautification Effort Success

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, says President Barack Obama's Presidential Inaugural Committee recently challenged communities to perform a day of community service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the anniversary of his birthday. In response, Sen. Jeff Smith held his second annual cleanup on MLK Jr. Blvd in the City of St. Louis, on Monday, Jan. 19. The support from the community was tremendous as volunteers scoured the area in near-freezing weather to pick up trash in empty lots, streets, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Last year, less than a dozen volunteers helped with the effort. This year, 275 people responded to the call for help. Operation Brightside donated gloves and bags and when volunteers ran out of supplies, nearby businesses gladly donated more bags, coffee, and hot chocolate in appreciation of the effort to beautify the community. Because of the enormous turnout, the volunteers were able to clean not just MLK Jr. Blvd, but also several major adjacent thoroughfares, including Page, Union, Goodfellow, Vandeventer and Kingshighway.

Senator Smith was overwhelmed by the turnout and by the enthusiasm of the volunteers, and pointed to the tangible results of the day's work. "A drive down MLK Jr. Blvd or Page Avenue today shows how much we can improve our community by simply donating a few hours of labor," said Sen. Smith. "Dr. King was a man of powerful eloquence, but he was also a man of action. So it was fitting to see hundreds of people honoring his legacy by cleaning the street that bears his name."

Senator Smith singled out a few people who helped make this year's MLK Day Cleanup a big success: Martin Casas, president of a St. Louis political group; state Rep. Chris Carter (D-St. Louis); Alderman Sam Moore (4th Ward); Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten of Williams Temple Church of God; and Jack Coatar and Jen Haro, volunteers with the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

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*Sen. Smith (center) speaks at the 2nd annual MLK Blvd. clean up effort.
For a high resolution photo, call (573) 751-3824 or email kdrummond@senate.mo.gov.*

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