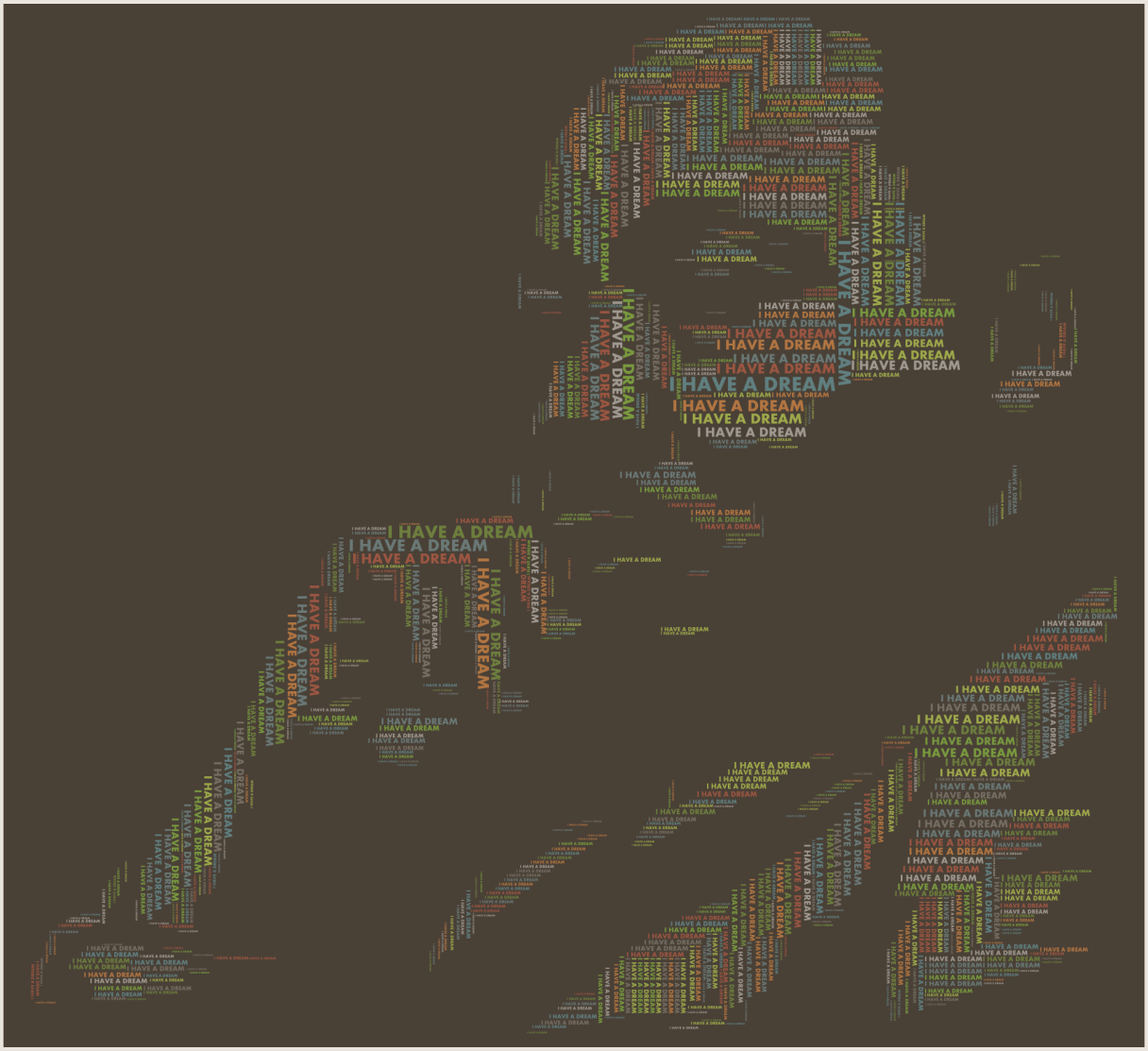
State of Georgia's 36th Annual Celebration of Service

presented by

Martin Luther King Jr. Advisory Council



January 15, 2021 • 12:00-1:30 PM

Georgia State Capitol • Ceremonial North Wing

Program

Welcome & Introductions
Ms. Deirdre Haywood-Rouse &
Mr. Demarius Brinkley

Presentation of Colors & Pledge of Allegiance
Georgia State Patrol Honor Guard
Trooper Mar'Kevious Thomas

United States National Anthem
Ms. Kelly Goodson
Award-Winning Singer and Songwriter

Invocation
Pastor Andrew Momon, Jr.
Victory Church Midtown, Atlanta

Governor's Presentation
Honorable Brian Kemp
83rd Governor, State of Georgia

Remarks from Lieutenant Governor
Honorable Geoff Duncan
12th Lieutenant Governor, State of Georgia

Remarks from the Speaker of the House
Honorable David Ralston
Georgia House of Representatives

Musical Selection
Ms. Kelly Goodson
Award-Winning Singer and Songwriter

Keynote Address
Monica Kaufman Pearson
Legendary Atlanta News Personality

Remarks from Legislative Black Caucus
Sen. Tonya Anderson
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus

Reflection Ceremony

Special Awards Ceremony
MLK Advisory Council

John Robert Lewis
Lifetime Achievement Award
Mr. Charles Alphin

Rita Jackson Samuels
Founders Award
Ms. Nellie Duke

Rev. Joseph E. Lowery
Civil Rights Award
Ms. Helen Butler

Ambassador Andrew J. Young
Humanitarian Award
Ms. Sherry Frank

Parting Comments
Sen. Emanuel Jones, Chairman
Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council

Benediction
Pastor Andrew Momon, Jr.
Victory Church Midtown, Atlanta

Please adhere to COVID-19 protocols.
Social distancing is encouraged, and complimentary masks are available for all guests.

Keynote Speaker

Monica Kaufman Pearson is the first woman and first person of color to anchor the daily evening news in Atlanta where she worked for 37 years. In that time, she won nearly as many Southern Regional and local Emmy Awards for her reporting, anchoring and interview shows. Upon retiring from WSB-TV, she was honored on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by the bipartisan delegation of the State of Georgia for her years of service to the citizens of Georgia on and off the air.

Since retiring in 2012, Ms. Pearson has completed a master's degree Magna Cum Laude from the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism. She has also been conferred honorary doctorates from institutions including Clark Atlanta and Oglethorpe.

In addition to writing a column for Southern Seasons quarterly magazine and teaching at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, she continues to be a sought-after emcee and motivational speaker. Since 2014, she has freelanced at KISS 104.1 FM and hosted a public affairs show.

She is one of three hosts of the Emmy-nominated Georgia Public Broadcasting show, *A Seat at the Table*, and in recent years has become a radio and television spokesperson for businesses and institutions.

Ms. Pearson is a native of Louisville, Ky., a graduate of the University of Louisville, and a participant in the Summer Program for Minority Groups at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Early in her career, she worked for the Louisville Times newspaper and WHAS television in Louisville.

She serves on the Board of Jurors for the prestigious Peabody Awards at the University of Georgia and as board member emeritus of Meals on Wheels Atlanta. She has also served on the Executive Leadership Council and on the American Heart Association National Communications and Marketing Committee and was the first African American and second woman to serve as Chairperson of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. She was also the first woman to serve as President of the Atlanta Tipoff Club.

Ms. Pearson has been inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame, the University of Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the Atlanta Press Club Hall of Fame, the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, and Georgia Trend's Most Influential Hall of Fame. Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, presented her its 2018 Pillar of Leadership Award, Celebrating Excellence in Communications. That same year, the Atlanta Dream presented her with the Pat Summitt Inspiring Woman Award. In 2019, she was inducted into the Trumpet Foundation International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta and was named the 2019 Woman of Purpose by the United Way of Greater Atlanta.

She is a proud life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and serves in the Kappa Omega Chapter in Atlanta, the oldest chapter in the state of Georgia. She is also a member of The Junior League of Atlanta.

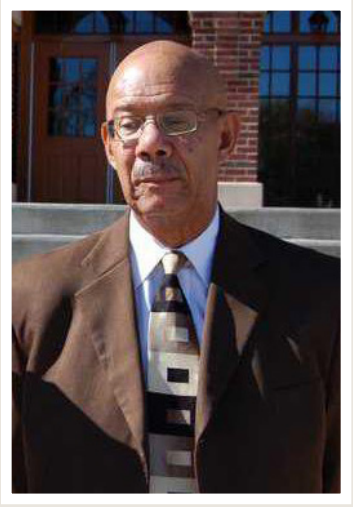
She is married to John E. Pearson, Sr. and is the mother of Claire Patrice Deveaux and stepmother of John E. Pearson II.

Charles L. Alphin

John Robert Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award

The John Robert Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award, named in honor of the civil rights leader and 17-term Congressman from Georgia, is given annually to a extraordinary public servant in recognition of their career-long commitment to support equality and education for all.

Charles L. Alphin, Sr. has served communities across this nation and around the world in as many ways as you can imagine; often times working with people in danger or at their most vulnerable.



After he received his Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and Criminal Corrections from Northeast Missouri State University, Mr. Alphin served as a law enforcement officer for nearly three decades in St. Louis, Missouri, during which time he held positions of patrol officer, detective, juvenile officer, sergeant, platoon lieutenant and captain. During the last 10 years of his career, he was Commander of units that included Homicide, Child Abuse, and Narcotics.

In 1992, after retirement from the St. Louis City Police Department and at the request of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Captain Alphin and his wife moved to Atlanta to work at the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc.. In 1994, he was promoted to Director of Education and Training for the King Center.

Since his retirement from the King Center, Mr. Alphin has worked as a Senior Trainer and spokesman with LaFayette & Associates, an organization started by Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. who served on the Executive Staff for Dr. King and trained Mr. Alphin in the philosophy and methodology of Kingian Nonviolence in the late 1970s.

He has trained at-risk youth and other students, gang members, local educators, college professors, community leaders, clergy, law enforcement and correctional officers all across the United States, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

In 1994, he spent four months in South Africa and assisted in training nearly a quarter-million South Africans in voter education and nonviolent resistance. One of his highest honors was to witness the historic South African election and inauguration of President Nelson Mandela.

He and his wife Joyce still reside in Atlanta and are the proud parents of two adult children.

Nellie Duke

Rita Jackson Samuels Founders Award Recipient

The Rita Jackson Samuels Founders Award, named in honor of the trailblazing equal rights advocate and businesswoman, is given annually to an exceptional individual or organization in recognition of their commitment to empowering women in business and in the community.

Nellie Dunaway Duke is committed to promoting women and supporting the underserved families in communities of Georgia and across the Southeast. Her professional work experience includes sales, marketing and interior decorating for JC Penney and Sears, but the native of Rome, Georgia, has spent most of her life serving others: as a Youth Counselor with the First Methodist Church, as an activities director with Carroll County Recreation Department, as well as being a field representative with the American Cancer Society.

In the 1970s, Ms. Duke was Area Coordinator for ERA Georgia, and she continued to lobby locally, statewide and nationally for health, education and women's rights during the 1980s and 1990s, when she was appointed to the Georgia Commission on Women by Lieutenant Governor Pierre Howard in 1992, and the President's Commission on Women in American History in 1999.

Since 2002, Ms. Duke has been on the Advisory Board of the US-China Cultural & Educational Foundation, and since 2006 has served on the Advisory Board for the Women's Leadership Exchange. She also serves on the board of other organizations; many of which she helped to found, like West Georgia Women's Forum, Carroll County Veterans Memorial Park, the Atlanta Women's Network, and Women's Information Network.

One of Ms. Duke's most recent achievements is as the Founding Chair of Georgia Women's Institute, where she serves as President and CEO. She has served also many years in the NAACP aiding in the integration of Carroll County and supporting underrepresented populations to run for political office locally and statewide.

Ms. Duke has won numerous Honors and Awards including the Mamie K. Taylor Georgia Business & Professional Women's Club's Award, Georgia AAUW Leadership Award, Georgia Legislature's 25 Women for the 21st Century Award, and the Turner Broadcasting Company's Super 17 Award, among others.

An annual Nellie Duke Scholarship has been established by the Georgia Woman of the Year Committee in recognition of her selfless dedication to those in need. Ms. Duke and her late husband William Henry Duke have five grown children, 10 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Helen Butler

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery Civil Rights Award Recipient

The Dr. Joseph E. Lowery Civil Rights Award, named in honor of the iconic minister and founding member of the SCLC, is given annually to an outstanding individual or organization in recognition of their unwavering advocacy for leadership development in the fight for civil rights.

You may not immediately recognize the name Helen Butler, but you undoubtedly know her work — and if you registered to vote in Georgia during the last 20 years or so — it was likely because of Voter Education and Get Out The Vote campaign that she helped spearhead.

Ms. Butler was one of the first 50 African Americans to enroll at the University of Georgia after being integrated in 1961. She is a charter member of the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the university with a major in Accounting that allowed her many years of success in finance and human resources leadership with Fortune 500 companies.

After the 2000 election cycle, Ms. Butler dedicated her life to non-profit advocacy in the areas of human and civil rights, environmental protection, women's empowerment, youth development and social justice. After two years as the State Coordinator for the NAACP Voter Empowerment Program, Ms. Butler was appointed Executive Director of The Coalition of the People's Agenda (CPA) in 2003.

Originally convened by Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery, CPA is headquartered in Atlanta with satellite offices in Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Albany, LaGrange, and Athens. In addition to a primary concentration on Voting Empowerment, the Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda maintains active committees that focus on Education, Criminal Justice and Environmental Protection. Through partnerships with the entities like the American Civil Liberties Union and NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Ms. Butler has helped to broaden the People's Agenda platform and membership of collaborative organizations.

Highly regard for her efforts in community service and voter education outreach, she received the 2002 National Association of Secretaries of State Award for Voter Education, and in 2010 she was awarded the Fannie Lou Hamer Award by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

Ms. Butler has served on the Board of Directors for YES! Atlanta and Advisory Board for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, among many others and is an active member of the Morgan County Board of Elections. She was also was lead partner for the CDC Flu Vaccination campaign in Atlanta and used much of the knowledge and influence from those activities to help protect voters from COVID-19 during the 2020 election season.

Sherry Frank

Ambassador Andrew J. Young Humanitarian Award Recipient

The Andrew J. Young Humanitarian Award, named in honor of former Atlanta Mayor, Congressman and Ambassador to the United Nations, is giving annually to a remarkable individual or organization in recognition of their pursuit of universal human rights and social justice.

Sherry Frank takes great pride in the work she has been able to do bringing together people of differing faiths and ethnicities to make the world better, safer, and more accepting for all persons.

Born in Atlanta, Ms. Frank graduated from Henry Grady High School before attending Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. The self-described "pretty passionate feminist" has worked for decades within the corporate and political arenas as an activist with great purpose to promote human rights, civil rights and women's rights.

She grew interested in social service and political activism in part because of the times and in part because of her upbringing. She donated money for trees in Israel and was a teenager when The Temple in Atlanta was bombed by white supremacists. She remembers, a decade later, the devastating news of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For nearly 30 years, Ms. Frank served as Southeast Area Director and Executive Director for the American Jewish Committee. Closer to home, she helped start a very successful synagogue, Congregation Or Hadash in Sandy Springs, and served as its president.

Ms. Frank has also assisted with many major boards in the Atlanta Jewish community including the Epstein School and Weber Schools, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, Birthright Israel Foundation Atlanta, and the Atlanta Jewish Film Society, Inc.

In the general community of Greater Atlanta she has served on committees of the United Way, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta and was appointed to the Georgia Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Frank recently published a memoir called "A Passion to Serve: Memoirs of a Jewish Activist," which was included in the 2019 book festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center Atlanta.

She is mostly retired, but her work is not done — she is the mother of four children, the Bubbe to 11 grandchildren, and resides in Atlanta.

With Gratitude

Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp
Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan
Speaker of the House David Ralston
Georgia Legislative Black Caucus
The King Center
Georgia State Patrol
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Georgia Building Authority
Monica Kaufman Pearson
Andrew Momon
Kelly Goodson

A Commitment Everlasting

Thank you to Dr. Bernice A. King and the King Family for their continued support and participation in the State of Georgia's Annual Celebration of Service Event. This Council and this community would not be where it is today without their tireless efforts to protect and advance the work of the King Center and Dr. King's Legacy.

Board Members

Sen. Emanuel Jones
Christine Miller-Betts
Demarius Brinkley
Toney Collins

DCA Commissioner Christopher Nunn
Barbara Harrison
Deirdre Haywood-Rouse
Dr. Thomas Smith

Founder and Member Emeritus:
Rita Jackson Samuels (In Memoriam)

About the Council

Georgia's Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council is a 501(c)(3) organization created to promote the life, legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Council was created in law under then-Governor Nathan Deal. The primary responsibilities of the Council are to promote racial harmony and understanding across the State of Georgia through education and public events. The Council is able to further their efforts through the volunteerism of its members and by the generous contributions of individuals and corporations.