

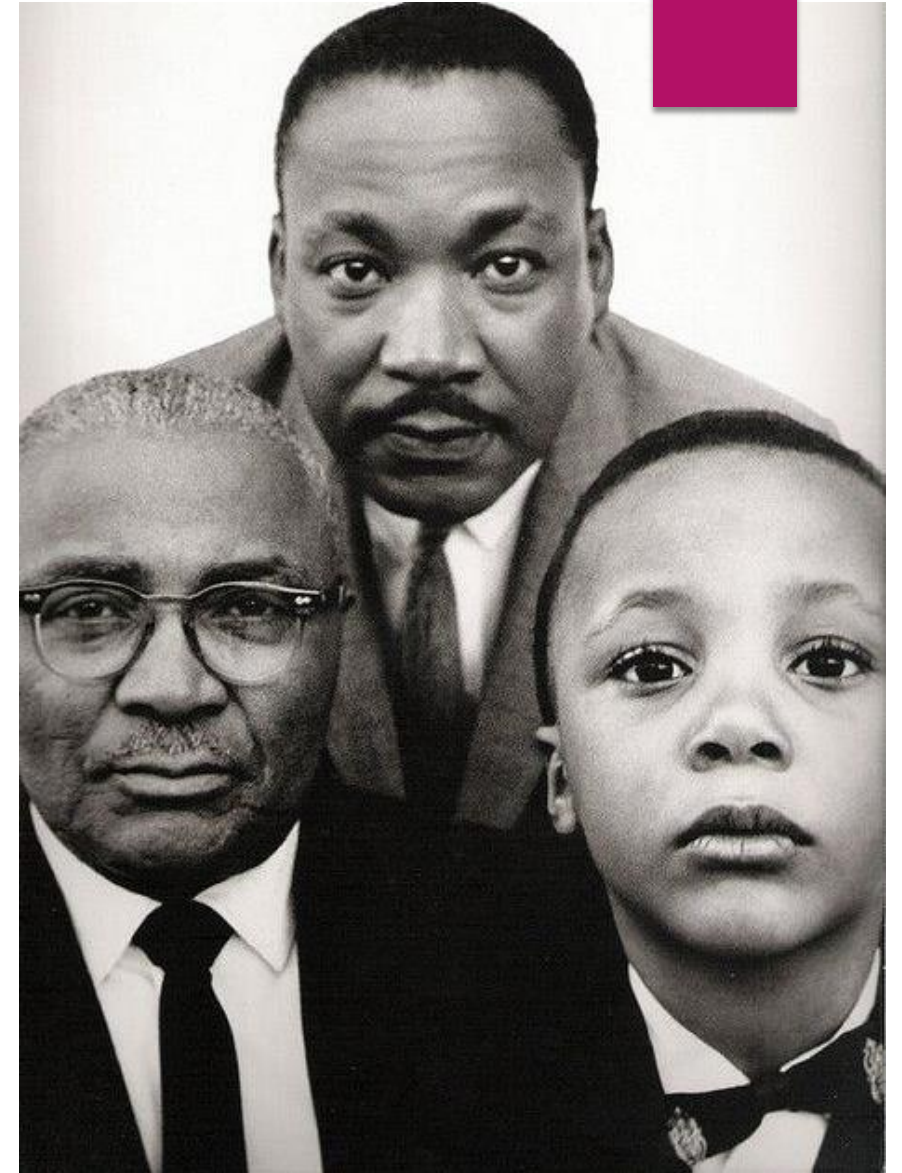
Facts you may not have known about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Source:

<https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-martin-luther-king-jr>

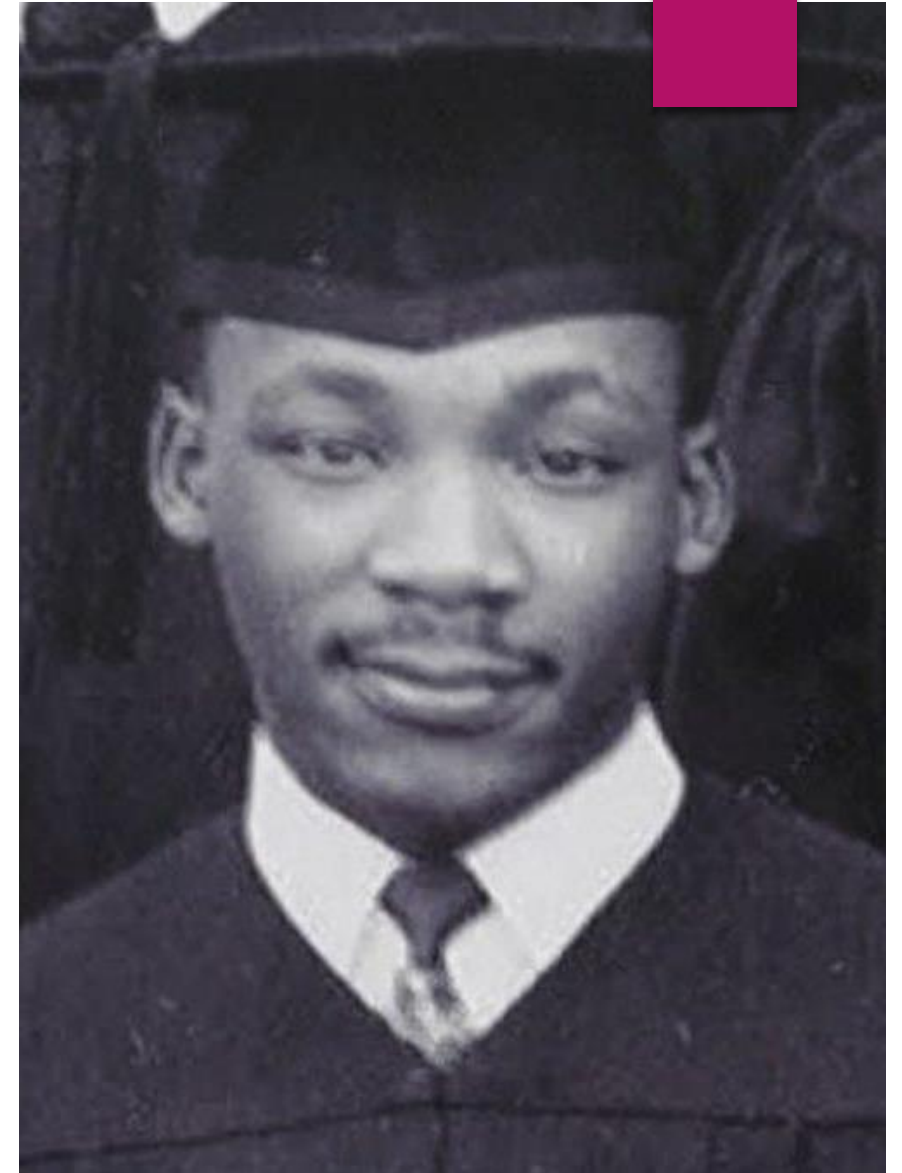
Dr King's birth name was Michael, not Martin

- ▶ The civil rights leader was born Michael King Jr. on January 15, 1929.
- ▶ In 1934, his father, traveled to Germany and became inspired by the Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther.
- ▶ As a result, King Sr. changed his own and his 5-year-old son's name.



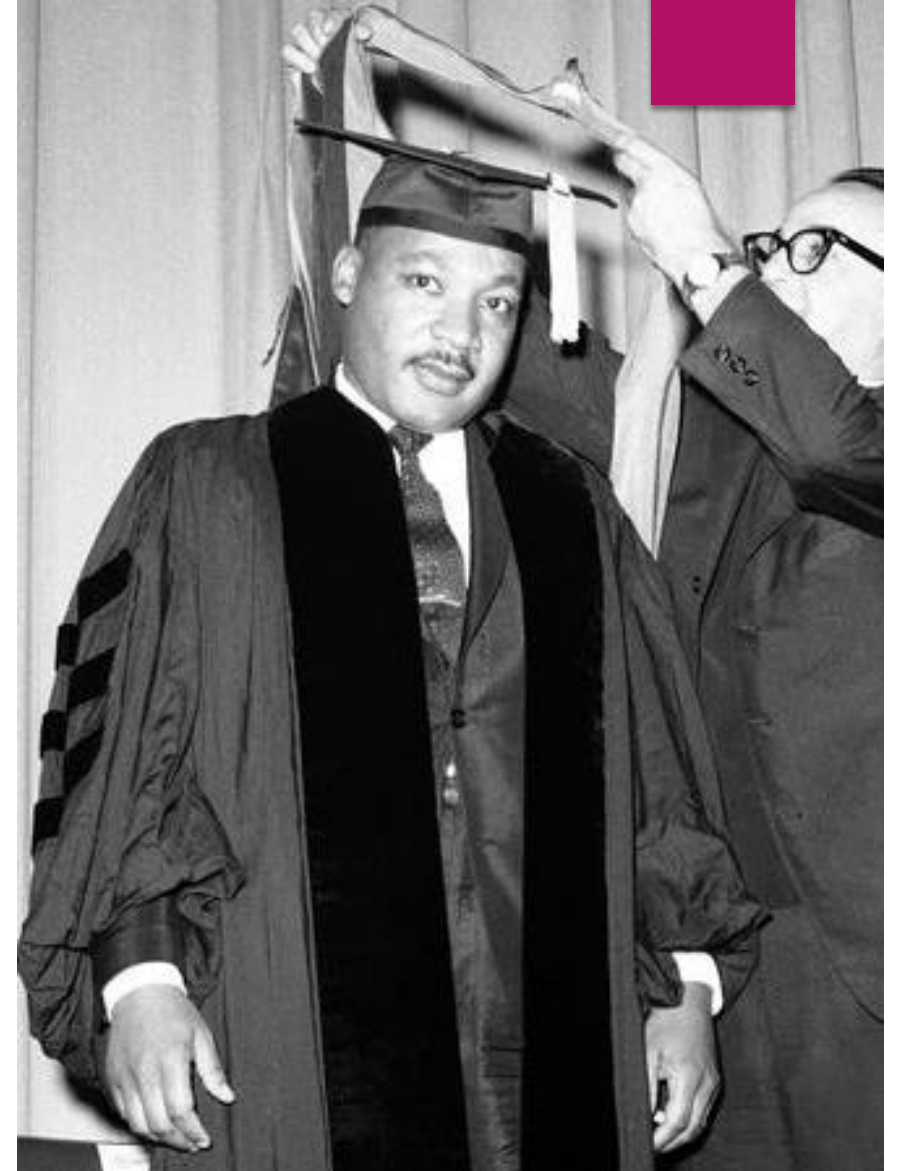
King entered college at the age of 15

- ▶ King skipped grades 9 and 12 and enrolled in 1944 at Morehouse College.
- ▶ Morehouse president Benjamin E. Mays, a noted theologian, convinced King to follow his father's vocation.
- ▶ King was ordained before graduating college with a degree in sociology.



King received his doctorate in systematic theology

- ▶ King received his Ph.D. degree in 1955 from Boston University.
- ▶ The title of his dissertation was “A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman.”



King's 'I Have a Dream' speech was not his first at the Lincoln Memorial

- ▶ On May 17, 1957, King spoke at the Memorial during the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom.
- ▶ Before a crowd of 15,000 to 30,000, King delivered his first national address on the topic of voting rights.
- ▶ His speech, “give us the ballot,” drew strong reviews and positioned him at the forefront of the civil rights leadership.



King narrowly escaped an assassination attempt a decade before his death

- ▶ On September 20, 1958, King was approached by Izola Ware Curry.
- ▶ Curry plunged a seven-inch letter opener into King's chest alongside his aorta.
- ▶ Surgeons told King that just one sneeze could have punctured the aorta and killed him.
- ▶ From his hospital bed King issued a statement affirming his nonviolent principles and saying he felt no ill will toward his mentally ill attacker.



King's last public speech foretold his death

King had come to Memphis in April 1968 to support the strike of the city's Black garbage workers



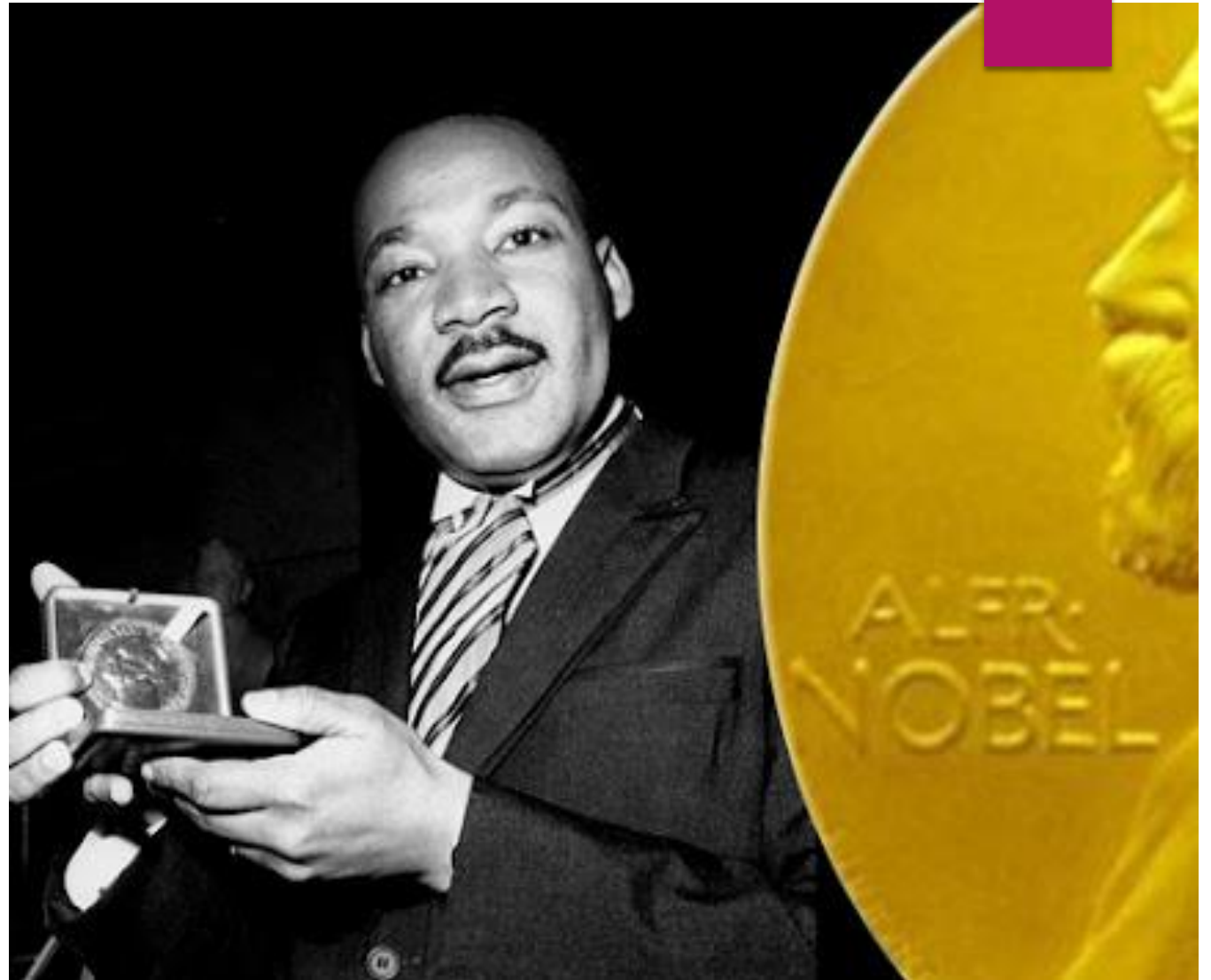
SGV-NCNW

On the night before his assassination, he told an audience:

- “Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place
- I’ve seen the Promised Land
- And I’m happy tonight. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”

Dr King was the youngest person at the time to receive a Nobel Peace Prize

- ▶ Prize awarded for combating racial inequality through nonviolence.
- ▶ He was just 35 years old.
- ▶ His prize included a check for \$54,123.00 which he donated to:
 - ▶ Congress on Racial Equality (CORE)
 - ▶ NAACP
 - ▶ National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and others.



Dr King is the only non-president to have a national holiday in his name

- ▶ In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill establishing a nationally celebrated holiday in remembrance of Dr King.
- ▶ MLK holiday was first celebrated in 1986 on the third Monday in January.



Dr King was awarded 20 Honorary Degrees and was named Man of the Year by Time magazine.

- ▶ Dr King received degrees from colleges & universities across the US and around the world.
- ▶ In 1963, he became the first African American to be named Time magazine “Man of the Year”. The tribute included:
 - ▶ His photograph on the cover
 - ▶ A seven-page article
 - ▶ Photos of memorable moments of Dr. King’s career.



There are approximately 900 streets named after MLK in the United States

- ▶ After his assassination, cities across the nation began naming and renaming streets in his honor.
- ▶ Countries such as Italy and Israel named streets in his honor.
- ▶ The number of streets increases every year, with 70 percent in Southern states,

