



## Martin Luther King

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Born January 15, 1929, and died April 4, 1968**

He was an American clergyman, and prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

He is best known for being an iconic figure in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world, using nonviolent methods.

As a Baptist minister, King became a civil rights activist early in his career. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957, serving as its first president. King's efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. There, he expanded American values to include the vision of a color blind society, and established his reputation as one of the greatest orators in American history.

In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other nonviolent means. By the time of his death in 1968, he had refocused his efforts on ending poverty and ending the Vietnam War.

Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. After his death he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

Mr. King told people what they should remember him for, should he die. If they attended his funeral, He said rather than remembering his awards and where he went to school, people should talk about how he fought peacefully for justice:

### **Martin Luther's Words:**

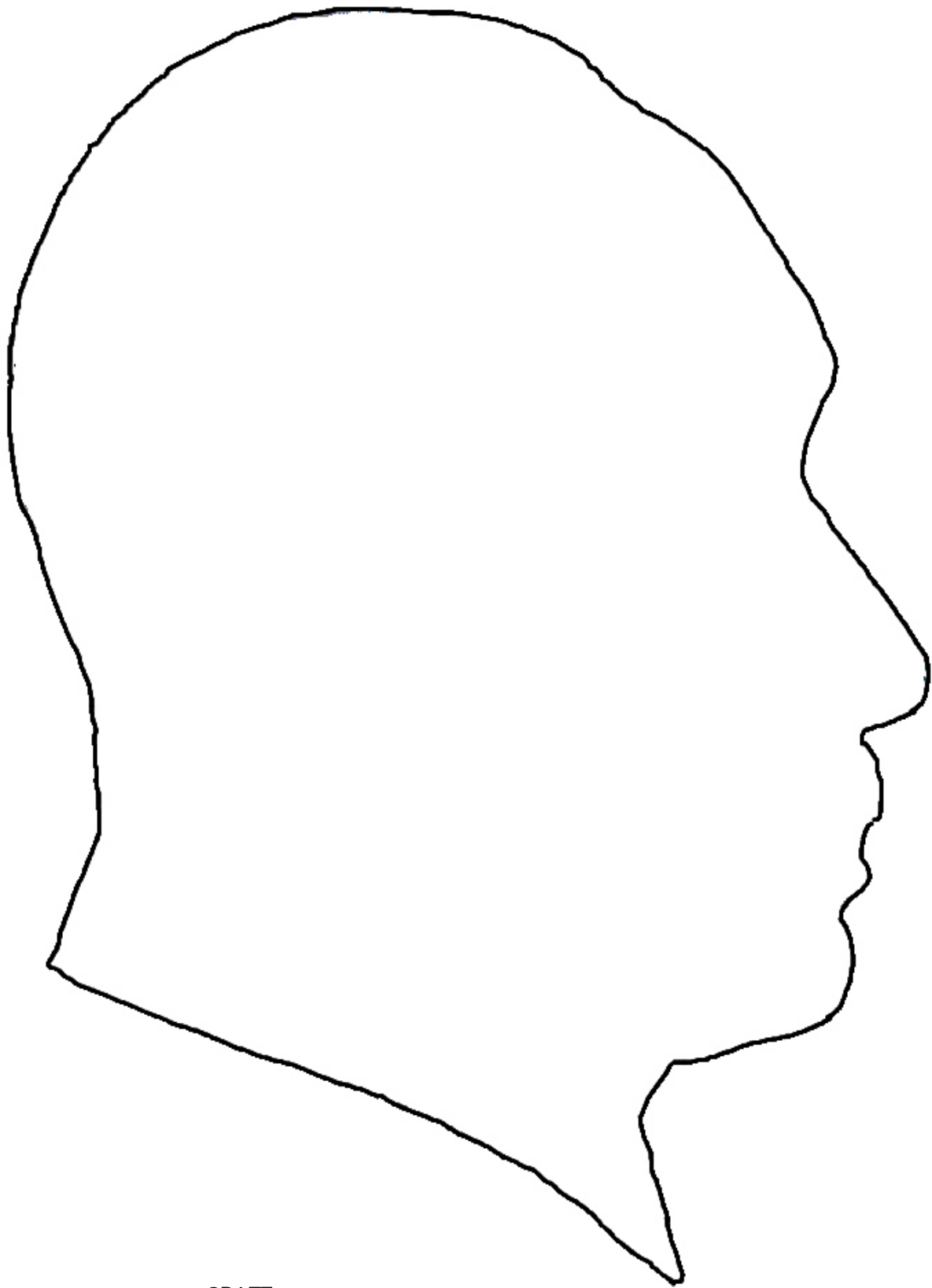
" I'd like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day, that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody.

I want you to say that day, that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day, that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to be able to say that day, that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity.

Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major. Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

November 2, 1983. President Ronald Reagan signed a bill on November 2, 1983, making a federal holiday to honor Martin Luther King. Martin Luther King Day was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986.

President George H. W. Bush made a proclamation in 1992, for the holiday to be observed on the third Monday of January each year, near the time of King's birthday. On January 17, 2000, for the first time, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was officially observed in all fifty U.S. states.

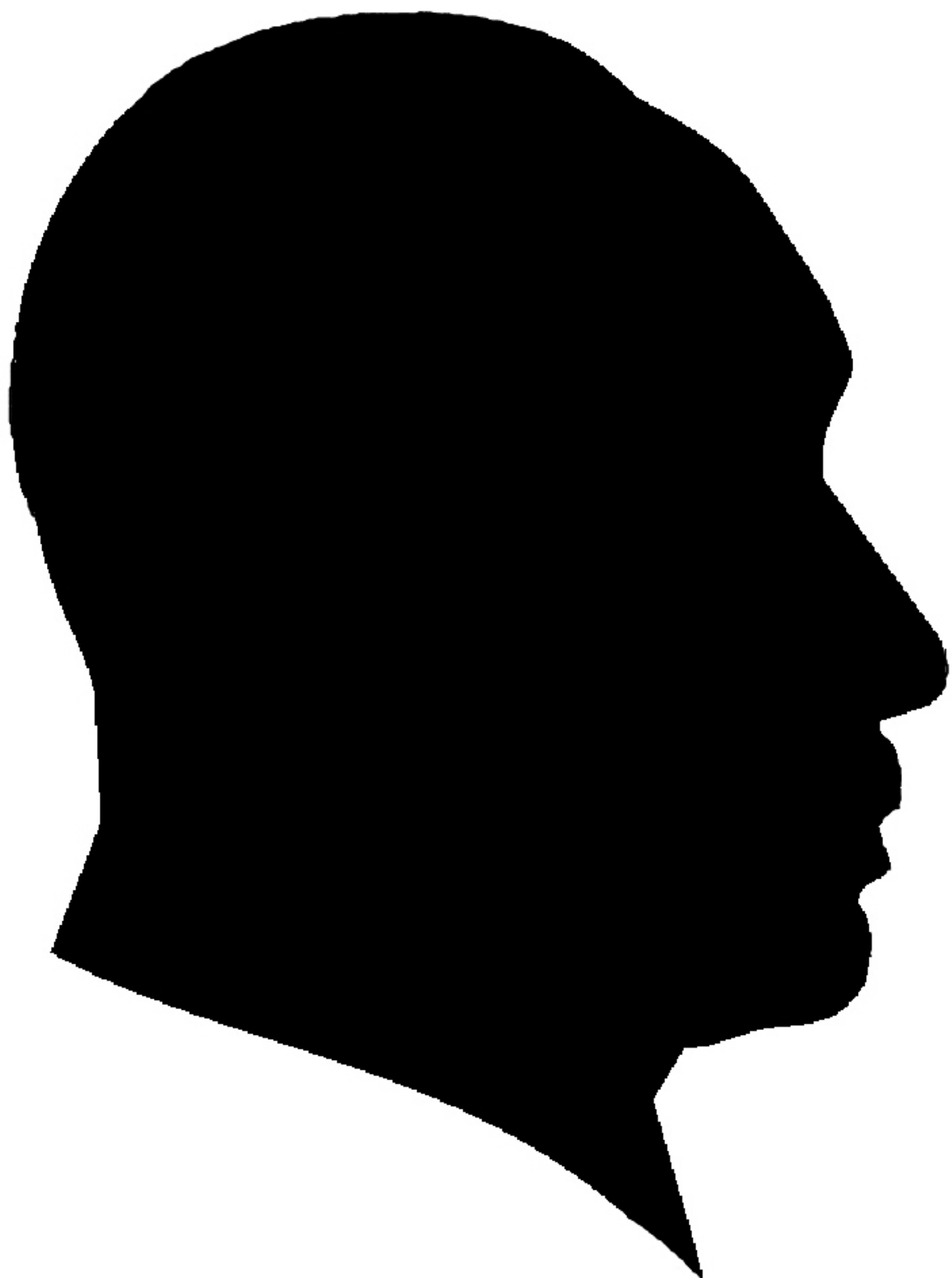


. CRAFT

Cut out pattern from black construction paper and place  
on white construction paper to make a poster.

OR

A printable poster is on the next page.



**Martin Luther King Jr.**