

GUEST COLUMN
For the Thursday, January 12, 2017 Edition
From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

38th Annual City of Monroe Birthday Salute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The City of Monroe will celebrate its 38th Annual Birthday Salute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from 11:30 am until 1 pm Thursday, January 12, 2016, in the W.L. "Jack" Howard Theater of the Monroe Civic Center Complex. Our 2017 Theme is "*Unity in the Community.*" After experiencing one of the most divisive years in our nation's history, we will embrace the power of diversity and unity within our community.

Our keynote speaker is Bro. Nuri Muhammad, Student Minister, N.O.I. He is a speaker, author, community organizer and also serves as the resident Minister of Mosque #74 in Indianapolis. Please join us to hear this dynamic speaker share an inspiring and timely message in celebration of Dr. King's legacy!

Also, plan to stay for the traditional lunch to be served following the event.

For the tenth consecutive year, we will also be making formal presentations to our 2017 award winners in the following categories:

James Sharp, Jr. Justice Award
B.D. Robinson Unity Award
Lillie "Granny" Goins Community Service Award
Morris Henry Carroll Education Award
W.L. "Jack" Howard Public Service Award
Nashall "Shack" Harris Humanitarian Award
Martin Luther King, Jr. Trailblazer Award

The entire community is invited. Please mark your calendar! We would greatly appreciate it if you would encourage your school, church, neighborhood or civic organizations to participate in this event. This will be an outstanding educational and inspirational experience for all.