



## Contra Costa County

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NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Humanitarian of the Year Awards to be Presented at 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Event**

(Martinez, CA) – 55 years have passed since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This sobering reminder serves as a backdrop to Contra Costa County's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration of Dr. King's life and legacy. The Board of Supervisors welcomes the public to the community celebration on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023, starting at 11 am in Contra Costa County's Board Chambers located at 1025 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA.**

"Contra Costa County invites the public to celebrate with us the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honor a Humanitarian and Student Humanitarian of the Year. These honorees exemplify the social justice and community commitment values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Supervisor John Gioia, Board Chair.

The theme of the event is "The Future Belongs to All." The celebration will feature keynote speaker Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Superintendent Thurmond lives in Contra Costa County and is the first Afro-Latino to hold this statewide office. He is an educator, social worker, and public school parent who has served the people of California for more than 15 years and will share his perspective on Dr. King's legacy.

Countywide recognition will be given to the Adult Humanitarian of the Year, Cheryl Sudduth, El Sobrante resident and Contract Services Manager for the Alameda – Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), and to the Student Humanitarian of the Year, Ava Freeman, a senior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette. Their passionate leadership, advocacy, and community service have improved the lives of Contra Costa County residents and reflect the spirit of Dr. King's work and achievements.

The program also includes entertainment from the Grown Women Dance Collective, spoken word performers Camille Miller, TJ Sykes, and Liberty High School (in Brentwood) Chamber Singers.

The public can also watch the ceremony at <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6086> or [www.contracostatv.org](http://www.contracostatv.org). The celebration will also be broadcast live on Contra Costa Television (CCTV) channels, Comcast Cable 27, ATT/U-Verse 99, and Astound 32 & 1027.

To learn more about the Dr. King Ceremony and past ceremonies, visit [www.contracosta.ca.gov/5307](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/5307).