



# R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.

## Retired Air Force, Marine, Army & Navy

Issue 180

January 14, 2023

### Remember the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 16, 2023

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\*All Articles and credits are due by the First Saturday of each month.

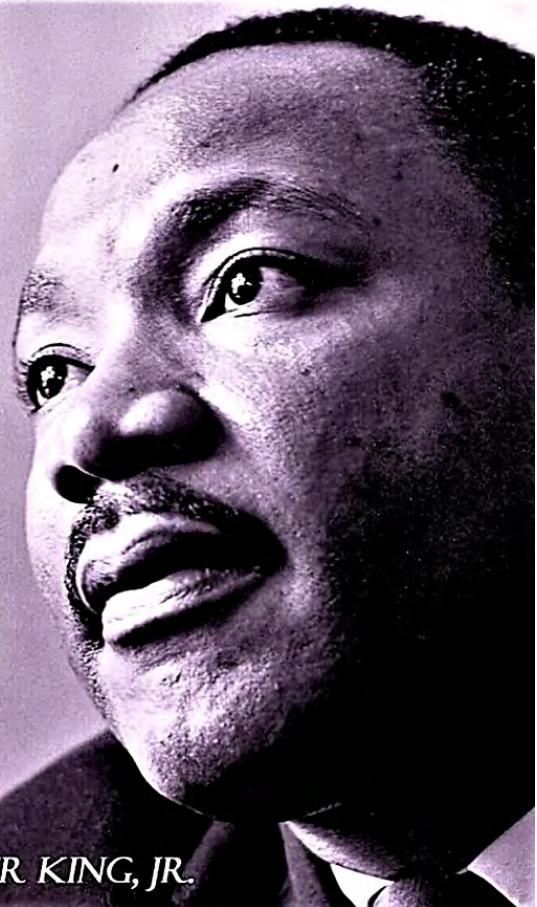
**Thanks**  
to all of you who continually contribute to the newsletter.  
—President Jarvis



Rev. 05/30/2020...vwf

"EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT...BECAUSE ANYBODY CAN SERVE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE TO SERVE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE YOUR SUBJECT AND VERB AGREE TO SERVE. YOU ONLY NEED A HEART FULL OF GRACE. A SOUL GENERATED BY LOVE."

—DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



#### Martin Luther King Jr. Events in Central Florida on Page 13A.

BY TAMMIE FIELDS / ORLANDO  
PUBLISHED 7:37 AM ET JAN. 12, 2023

Orlando, Fla. — There are a host of events being held across Central Florida to commemorate, honor and educate the public about the life and legacy of the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

<https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2023/01/12/list-of-local-martin-luther-king-jr-events>



### *President message*

*Greetings in the New Year and the month of January 2023. We begin this year by mourning the loss of a RAFMAN Brother at the end of 2022 and another at the beginning of 2023, but through it all we are thankful that we were given the opportunity to see the new year and we wish everyone a warm and prosperous New Year 2023.*

*With the advent of 2023 it is time rise to the occasion and meet the many challenges that lies before us, both seen and unseen, they will be there, success will only come have if you have tenacity and drive to overcome those obstacles that are impeding your path to the success you are trying to achieve. Success often comes after many failures.*

*Growth and expansion are often the goal of most organization, but growth and expansion often require hard work, new idea, procedures, and the abilities to communicate and express them. Most importantly is every one onboard and willing to sacrifice and give their time and talents to achieve the goals. A product is not something you find, its something you make. So, in 2023 strive for success, try to be a better person than you were last year. Remember its easy to sit ,but it moving to walk.*

#### **Quote!**

*“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other times. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”  
—Former President Barack*

*Have a Happy New Year!*

*Submitted: by  
Arthur Jarvis, President  
RAFMAN Club, Inc.*

#### **All Members Take Note:**

#### **Club Meeting**

**Saturday, January 21, 2023**

#### **12:30 PM— Meet for Lunch**

Host: RAFMAN Charles Dorsey  
8032 International Dr. Orlando

#### **3:00 PM — Club Meeting**

L. Claudia Allen Senior Center  
1840 Mable Butler Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32805

**Keep Safe!**



*From Simon.....*

*Entertainment News and More.....*

*A New Year! If you are reading this, then you made it too. Blessings on you and Happy New year! What a year 2022 was. There were many challenges and hurdles for me but we have overcome.*



*Now on to some fun facts. January was named for the Roman god Janus, protector of gates and doorways. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. There is a tradition of eating Hoppin' John -it is called- on New Year's Day. For some, however, Hoppin' John was eaten on New Year's Eve beginning when the dish was served with a Champagne toast at Midnight. When served on New Year's Day, the meal was also served with Collard Greens and corn-bread. But, according to southern lore, a menu of black-eyed peas, greens, pork, and corn bread should be the first meal eaten on January 1. This is where the name of Hoppin' John has originated because some people cook their black-eyed peas over rice bringing the dish known as "Hoppin' John," about with each dish offering a different kind of good fortune:*

- The black-eyed peas symbolize "coins," and point to monetary gain.*
- Greens (collards, mustard or turnip greens, cabbage, etc.) symbolize the green of "dollar bills," and will ensure you have a financially prosperous new year.*
- Whether you use them to flavor the Hoppin' John or the greens, pork is meant to bring "forward motion" or "advancement" in the year ahead.*
- Corn bread, with its yellow hue, represents "gold."*
- And if tomatoes are added to the meal (these are sometimes stewed with the Hoppin' John), they're said to represent "good health."*

*Some say an old, hobbled man called Hoppin' John became known for selling peas and rice on the streets of Charleston. Others say slave children hopped around the table in eager anticipation of the dish. There are many fables and tales about this southern dish and why or how we eat it. All I know is that we eat it on New Year's Day and we are still here with many, many blessings to show for it.*

*OK. It is now crunch time for all of our beloved sports team(s). Some of us are doing well and some not too good. The hometown team seems to have made a turn- for the better-and it is good for our out-of-town friends to think that we are doing good. Yes, I root for them more often than not but the jury is still out. Every year they have more injuries than other teams as the injured players ride the bench taking up the space from the active players. Maybe one year the Magic will go to the drafting and pick a player who can play every game of the season. That will be the season when things start to really turn. As for your Buccaneers, what can I say? A ship on the ocean with no direction. Thought they had a Captain which was untouchable. Well, now you see that he is just a mere mortal-like all of us. We'll see where we are next month. The month of the Super Bowl.*

*We won't discuss resolutions this year. We'll just do our best to be better people, walk a little closer with the Master, and keep family and friends - the ones that offer support and genuineness coupled with unconditional love-close.*

*Keep the faith and I'll see you soon.*

*Peace..... Simon*



## World War II veteran Joseph Eskenazi

World War II veteran Joseph Eskenazi, who at 104 years and 11 months old is the oldest living veteran to survive the attack on Pearl Harbor, holds a photo of his younger self, at an event celebrating his upcoming 105th birthday at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023. (Gerald Herbert/AP)



NEW ORLEANS — Flag-waving admirers lined the sidewalk outside the [National World War II Museum](#) in New Orleans on Wednesday to greet the oldest living survivor of the Japanese attack on [Pearl Harbor](#) as he marked his upcoming 105th birthday.

“It feels great,” Joseph Eskenazi of Redondo Beach, California, told reporters after posing for pictures with his great-grandson, who is about to turn 5, his 21-month-old great-granddaughter and six other World War II veterans, all in their 90s.

Eskenazi turns 105 on Jan. 30. He had boarded an Amtrak train in California on Friday for the journey to New Orleans. The other veterans, representing the Army, Navy and Marines, flew in for the event.

World War II veteran Joseph Eskenazi, who at 104 years and 11 months old is the oldest living veteran to survive the attack on Pearl Harbor, sits with fellow veterans, his great grandchildren Mathias, 4, Audrey, 1, and their grandmother Belinda Mastrangelo, at an event celebrating his upcoming 105th birthday at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

Eskenazi was a private first class in the Army when the attack occurred. His memories include being awakened when a bomb fell — but didn’t explode — near where he was sleeping at Schofield Barracks, reverberating explosions as the battleship USS Arizona was sunk by Japanese bombs, and machine gun fire from enemy planes kicking up dust around him after he volunteered to drive a bulldozer across a field so it could be used to clear runways.

“I don’t even know why — my hand just went up when they asked for volunteers,” Eskenazi said. “Nobody else raised their hand because they knew that it meant death. ... I did it unconsciously.”

He was at the Army’s Schofield Barracks when the Dec. 7, 1941, attack began, bringing the United States into the war. About 2,400 servicemen were killed.

## What Grant's battlefield promotion 137 years after his death says about race in America today

**David M. Shribman**

January 4, 2023

### **Ulysses S. Grant**

President of the United States from 1869 to 1877



Lost in the pre-holiday rush ... was an important marker in the culture wars on religion and race in America. Ulysses Grant is getting a battlefield promotion.

The 18th president has been dead for 137 years, his presidency ended in 1877, and his Civil War heroics ended more than a century and a half ago. But like much of American history, the final verdict on Grant has been a matter of debate for decades. A hero in the view of the Union, a merciless butcher in the view of the Confederacy, he was denigrated as a hopeless drunk, cast into history's dustbin as a clueless chief executive and maybe a corrupt one, then simply left by the scholarly wayside, regarded as just one of the bearded nonentities—mere placeholders in America's greatest place of honor—between Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Now he's back in favor, in a big way.

So big that, while you were looking elsewhere, Congress passed a little-celebrated but vital defense authorization bill that had an unusual element, the promotion of Grant to the rank of General of the Armies of the United States. As a result he will stand only with George Washington and World War I General John J. Pershing with that honor. The promotion came with bipartisan support, a triumph in its own right.

In the Great Simplification of American history, some of the hard work of Grant has been forgotten, though all his blemishes remain vivid. But the Grant story is a great American tale, of growth, redemption and reconciliation.

"Grant was courageous, he managed the demons in his life and he left a commendable life record," Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, who with Republican Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri headed the effort, said in an interview. "He struggled throughout his life and wanted real democracy for his country. He's one of our greatest leaders."

But perhaps the most significant element of Grant's life was not when he stood by his actions but when he changed his mind. The better we know that story, the easier it may be to change minds in our own time.

In 1862, amid brutal Civil War fighting, Grant signed General Order No. 11, designed to expel Jews from a huge area stretching between the Mississippi and Tennessee rivers and all the way from parts of Mississippi to parts of Illinois. The words of this order stir echoes from Nazi Germany and prompt chills today:

*Post commanders will see that all of this class of people be furnished passes and required to leave, and any one returning after such notification will be arrested and held in confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoners, unless furnished with permit from headquarters.*

In his biography of Grant, the historian Ron Chernow called the Order “the most sweeping anti-Semitic action taken in American history.” But there was more. The very day Grant signed the order, he wrote a letter that employed an ancient trope about Jews while describing how Jewish traders of the time bought cotton and paid for it in Treasury notes “which the Jew will buy up at an agreed rate, paying gold.”

An indispensable account by the Brandeis historian Johnathan D. Sarna sets forth what Grant did as president: Appointed a top B’nai B’rith official to be recorder of deeds. Spoke out against the order expelling Jews from border areas of Russia. Sent a Jew to be American consul to Romania in the wake of persecution of Jews there. Aligned himself with Jews in efforts to keep religion out of schools. Became the first president to attend

the dedication of a synagogue (and made a financial contribution to it). Squired a delegation of Jews, including Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, through the White House. “I know all about you,” the president told Wise, perhaps the leading Jewish figure of the 19th century, “especially in connection with Order No. 11.”

That was no mere aside. “That Grant used the occasion to recall his Civil War order banishing Jews,” Sarna wrote, “indicates that the blot on his record—that he had failed to live up to his own high standard of what it meant to be an American—was never far from his mind.”

Nor far from his mind was the cause over which the Civil War was fought.

The conflict may have begun as a struggle to save the Union but it slowly was transformed into a battle over slavery. Before Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Grant helped establish contraband camps in the Mississippi Valley to provide food and shelter to Blacks who had fled the bonds of slavery.

He began his administration with a specific plea in his Inaugural Address to pass the 15th Amendment, which forbade the denial of the right to vote “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,” arguing, “this question should be settled now.” Once the amendment was adopted, he sent a proclamation to Congress saying the amendment “completes the greatest civil change, and constitutes the most important event that has occurred, since the nation came to life.”

That remark by Grant alone buttresses the current notion of the centrality of race in American history.

As president, Grant fought for equal rights for newly emancipated Blacks, invited Blacks to the White House and strategized with Black leaders on the way forward. He condemned racial violence in the South (“that ought not to be tolerated in any civilized government”), supported legislation that prohibited the use of violence to keep Blacks from the polls, decried the Ku Klux Klan and ordered troops to oppose the group, designated federal resources to fight racial oppression, and signed the Civil Rights Act of 1875.

“Here was someone who was an abject failure at the beginning of the Civil War who turned out to become an amazing general and a person who really evolved during the course of his lifetime,” said Anne Marshall, a Mississippi State University historian who is the executive director of the Grant Presidential Library. “He put the might of the federal government behind civil rights.” He deserved his promotion.

*David M. Shribman is the former executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.  
Email [dshribman@post-gazette.com](mailto:dshribman@post-gazette.com). Twitter: [@ShribmanPG](https://twitter.com/ShribmanPG)*

# Korean War Memorial



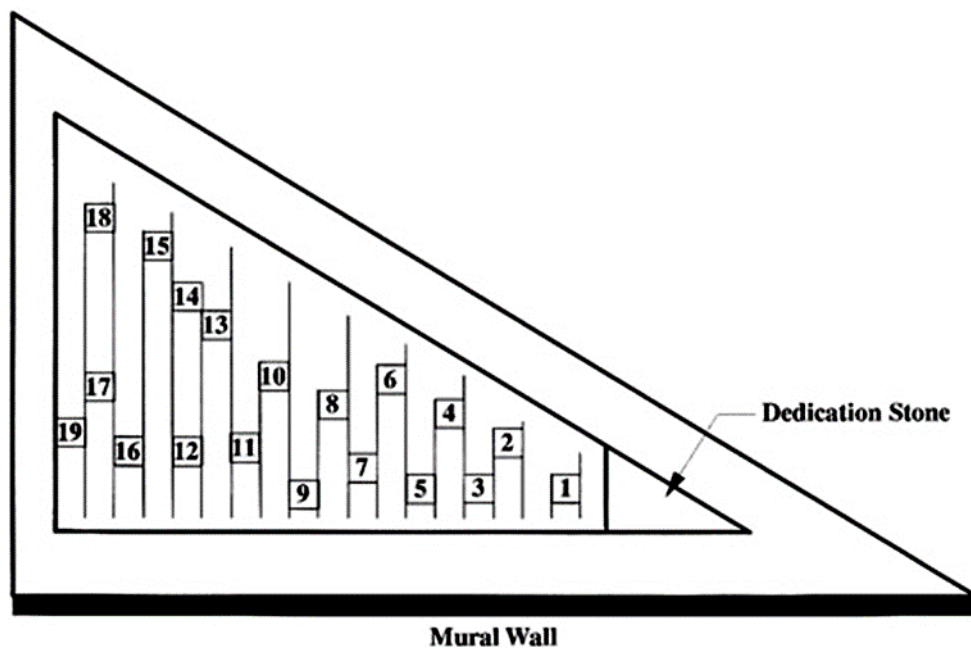
Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It was dedicated on July 27, 1995. The memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. From June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died in support of their country. Of these, 8,200 were listed as missing in action, or lost or buried at sea at the Honolulu Memorial, at the time of the Korean War Courts of the Missing dedication in 1966. In addition 103,284 were wounded during the conflict. As an integral part of the memorial, the Korean War Honor Roll was established, honoring those U.S. military personnel who died worldwide during the war.

## **Statues:**

The 19 stainless steel statues were sculpted by Frank Gaylord of Barre, Vt. and cast by Tallix Foundries of Beacon, N.Y. They are approximately 7-feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 Army, three Marine, one Navy and one Air Force members. The statues stand in patches of juniper bushes and are separated by polished granite strips, which give a semblance of order and symbolize the rice paddies of Korea. The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment. The ponchos seem to blow in the cold winds of Korea. The statues are identified below:

Position	Service	Duty	Race	Weapon
1.	Army	Lead Scout	Caucasian	M-1
2.	Army	Scout	Caucasian	M-1
3.	Army	Squad Leader	Caucasian	M-1
4.	Army	BAR Man	Afro-American	Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR)
5.	Army	BAR Assistant	Caucasian	Carbine
6.	Army	Rifleman	Afro-American	M-1
7.	Army	Group Leader	Caucasian	Carbine
8.	Army	Radio Operator	Caucasian	Carbine
9.	Army	Army Medic	Hispanic	None
10.	Army	Forward Observer	Caucasian	Carbine
11.	Air Force	Air-Ground Controller	Caucasian	Carbine
12.	Marine Corps	Assistant Gunner	Caucasian	Tripod
13.	Marine Corps	Gunner	Caucasian	Machine Gun
14.	Navy	Corpsman	Afro-American	None
15.	Marine Corps	Rifleman	Asian-American	M-1
16.	Army	Rifleman	Caucasian	M-1
17.	Army	Rifleman	Hispanic	M-1
18.	Army	Assistant Group Leader	Caucasian	M-1
19.	Army	Rifleman	Native American	M-1





# Military drones: game changer in modern warfare

Becoming one of the U.S. military's primary weapon, drones have been employed in their strikes in the Middle East in recent years, including in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Libya, Somalia, Iraq and Syria. As the world's top military drone operator, the U.S. has around 8,000 drones.



This U.S. Air Force file photo obtained Jan. 5 shows a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft as it awaits an engine test prior to Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance operations at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, July 23, 2019. AFP-Yonhap

In this file photo taken on Jan. 23, 2018, a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drone sits at Kandahar Air base in Afghanistan. AFP-Yonhap





A MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft / Korea Times file



This screenshot photo from the U.S. aerospace giant Northrop Grumman's website shows its RQ-4 Block 30 Global Hawk aircraft. South Korea's first RQ-4B Global Hawk arrived at a military air base in Sacheon, South Gyeongsang Province, in December. Northrop Grumman-Yonhap

\*Photos Taken from The KOREA TIMES

**South Korea falls behind in drone deployment** by Jung Da-min  
[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/01/205\\_281633.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/01/205_281633.html)

# CONGRATULATIONS!

**Debora Jackson**

**The Business School**

**DEAN OF WPI BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**EMAIL:** djackson2@wpi.edu



## **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Ministry, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA, Major in Leadership, Graduated with Honors

Master of Divinity, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA, Major in Spirituality, Graduated with Honors

Master of Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA, Minor in Computer Science

Master of Science, Management, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA

Bachelor of Science, Business, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

## **Biography of Rev. Debora Jackson, DMin, MDiv, ME, MS, BS**

The Reverend Dr. Debora Jackson is Professor of Practice and Dean of the Business School at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a premiere STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) based institution recognized for project-based education that integrates the theory and practice of management. In response to changing industry needs, Dr. Jackson seeks to promote research, collaboration, and partnerships that understand broader societal needs and recast the vision for business education in ways that prepare leaders to disrupt, reorient, and innovate for societal impact.

Dr. Jackson comes to WPI having served as Director of Operations of All Girls Allowed, a faith-based, non-profit organization committed to restoring life, value, and dignity to women by providing resources that promote healing and wholeness. Previously, Dr. Jackson was Director of Lifelong Learning at Yale Divinity School and was responsible for developing a robust program to assemble and leverage the abundant intellectual and professional resources of the School for the betterment of churches and other ministries.

Prior to her appointment at Yale Divinity School, Dr. Jackson was the Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches, USA, a prestigious and historic organization dedicated to the support of American Baptist clergy. She led the Council from 2012 to 2017, helping the organization restructure and revitalize while securing important new revenue



streams. Previously she served for eight years as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Needham, MA, which under her leadership reversed years of decline and flourished as a church known for its engaged preaching, new ministries, and extensive outreach.

Dr. Jackson worked in business for 20 years, with an emphasis on IT and software engineering, before heeding the call to ministry. Key roles she held during that time included Chief Operating / Chief Information Officer of an e-commerce energy services provider and as Managing Director of a supply chain / IT consulting group.

Dr. Jackson received her Doctorate in Ministry, emphasis in Leadership, and Master of Divinity degree, emphasis in Spirituality, both with honors, from Andover Newton Theological School. She holds a Master of Engineering degree in Manufacturing Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Management from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Indiana University.

Dr. Jackson is also a consultant who leads custom, high impact engagements, including strategic planning, conflict resolution, and leadership development, for non-profit and faith-based organizations. As an author, Dr. Jackson has written numerous articles and two books, *Meant for Good: Fundamentals in Womanist Leadership* (Judson Press, 2019) and *Spiritual Practices for Effective Leadership: 7 R's of Sanctuary for Pastors* (Judson Press

Generation Z—Gen Zers—"iGeneration"

*Congratulations!*



## Maxwell Frost

is an American politician, activist and musician serving

**Member of the U.S. House of Representatives**

**from Florida's 10th district**

he was previously the national organizing director for March for Our Lives.

Incumbent

Assumed office January 3, 2023

Preceded by Val Demings

**Born:** Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
January 17, 1997 (age 25)  
Orlando, Florida, U.S.

**Political Party:** Democratic

**Education:** Valencia College

\*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxwell\\_Frost](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxwell_Frost)



**Saturday, Jan. 14**

**10 a.m. — 39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
Downtown Orlando Parade  
Downtown Orlando, Orange Avenue

**Monday, Jan. 16**

**7:45 a.m. — Arthur “Pappy” Kennedy 32nd Annual Prayer Breakfast** at the *First Baptist Orlando, 3000 South John Young Parkway*

Presented by the Southwest Orlando Jaycees and the Central Florida YMCA, the annual Arthur “Pappy” Kennedy Prayer Breakfast will commemorate the legacies of civil rights pioneers Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Arthur “Pappy” Kennedy, Orlando’s first African American City Council Member. This year’s guest speaker will be Dr. Barbara Jenkins, retired Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools. Event registration, visit <https://ymcaof.org/community/y-events/prayerbreakfast/>.

**9 a.m. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission’s Great Day of Service** *Lake Lorna Doone Park, 1519 West Church St.* ... the city of Orlando’s MLK Commission coordinate various volunteer efforts to clean-up areas, provide gardening, landscaping, beautification of homes and more. For volunteer opportunities, visit [volunteer.orlando.gov](http://volunteer.orlando.gov).

**9 a.m. - Seedlings for Civil Rights**  
*Gilbert McQueen Park, 650 West Lake Mann Drive*  
...the City of Orlando’s Green Up and Keep Orlando Beautiful programs coordinate efforts to beautify homes in the Lake Mann community by planting trees, mulching, and removing litter in the surrounding park and other areas. Snacks, water and all needed supplies provided for volunteers. Closed toe shoes required. Volunteer opportunities, visit [orlando.gov/seedlings](http://orlando.gov/seedlings).

**Friday, Jan. 20**

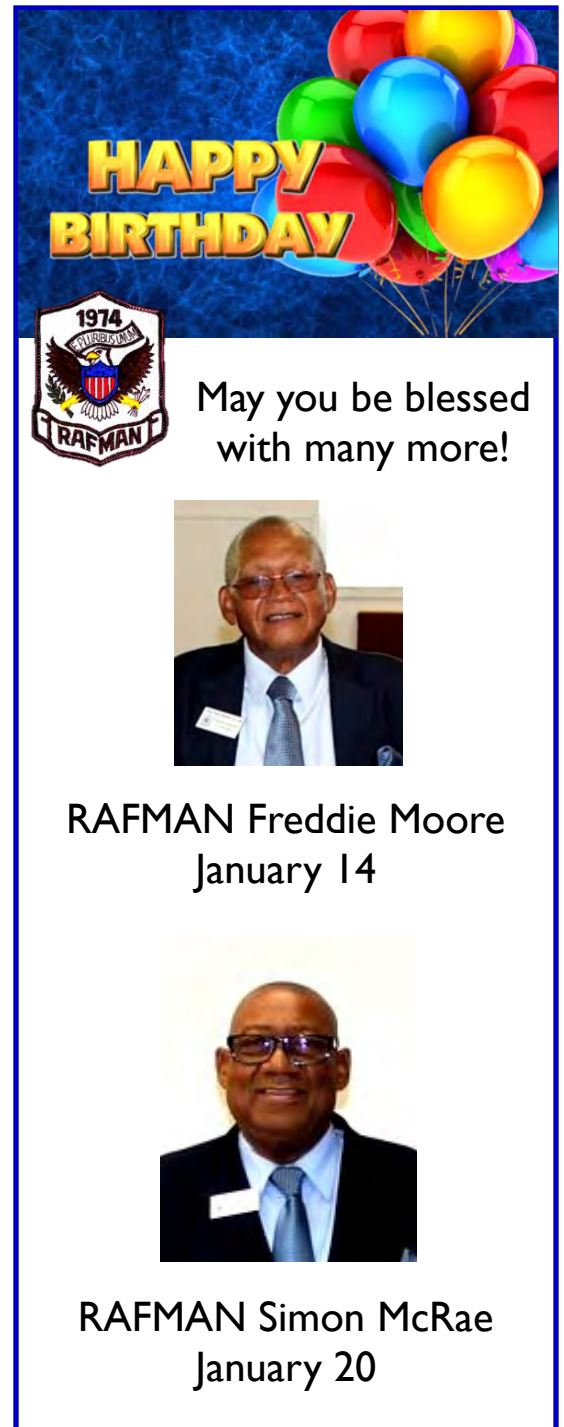
**7 p.m. — MLK Night at the Orlando Magic**  
*Amway Center, 400 West Church Street*  
The event will recognize Mayor Dyer’s MLK Youth Humanitarian Award Winners at the Orlando Magic vs. New Orleans Pelicans game.

**Saturday, Feb. 18**

**7 p.m. — MLK Gospel Concert**  
*Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Steinmetz Hall, 445 South Magnolia Avenue*  
The 8th Annual MLK Concert is produced and directed by Grammy Award Winner, Dr. Jeffrey Redding. Admission is free, but attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. For more events, visit [orlando.gov/events/MLK](http://orlando.gov/events/MLK).

**Saturday, Jan. 14**

**2 p.m. — Historic Town of Eatonville 46th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade 2023** “Facing Today, Building Faith for Tomorrow” —*Town of Eatonville, Kennedy Boulevard* The parade travels east on Kennedy Boulevard from Keller Road to West Avenue through the heart of the small town. For more details, [https://fe07ea.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-MLK-Info-Packet\\_Updated.pdf](https://fe07ea.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-MLK-Info-Packet_Updated.pdf)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

May you be blessed with many more!

**RAFMAN Freddie Moore**  
January 14

**RAFMAN Simon McRae**  
January 20

**Monday, Jan. 16**

**2 p.m. — 14th annual Apopka Martin Luther King Jr. Parade** “Together, We Can Make a Difference”  
*City of Apopka*  
The parade begins at the Apopka Community Center, VFW building located at 519 S. Central Ave., and travels to the John Bridges Community Center on 13th Street.



## Sick n' Shut-ins:

Jerald Marks

## To Bereaved Families:

Our Prayers and Condolences to Families Everywhere: loved ones who have passed away due to natural death, sickness, hurricane Ian, wars, hate crimes, and mass shootings around the world.

### **In Loving Memory of**



**RAFMAN Thomas Carter** passed away December 6, 2022; The funeral service was December 17, 2022, followed by burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Gotha FL.

&



**RAFMAN James E. King, Jr.** passed on January 2, 2023 at the VA Hospital Lake Nona. Funeral service will be held Saturday January 14 at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Winter Garden, FL. Burial will be Tuesday January 17, at the Florida National Cemetery Mims, FL.



### **A NEW VISION**

*I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43: 19*

Wearing my new eyeglasses as I stepped into the sanctuary, I sat down and spotted a friend sitting directly across the aisle on the other side of the church. As I waved at her, she looked so near and clear. It felt like I could reach out and touch her even though she was several yards away. Later, as we talked following the service, I realized she was in the same seat she always sat in. I simply could see her better because of an upgraded prescription in my new spectacles.

God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, knew that the Israelites stuck in Babylonian captivity would need a new prescription—a new view. He told them. “I am doing a new thing! . . . I am

making a way in the wilderness” (Isaiah 43:19). And His message of hope included the reminders that He had “created” them, “redeemed” them, and would be with them. “You are mine,” He encouraged them (v. 1).

In whatever you’re facing today, the Holy Spirit can provide better vision for you to put the old behind you and look for the new. By God’s love (v. 4), it’s popping up all around you. Can you see what He’s doing in the midst of your pain and bondage? Let’s put on our new spiritual glasses to see the new that God is doing even in our wilderness moments. —By Katara Patton

### **SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:18-21 NIV**

18 “Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
19 See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.  
20 The wild animals honor me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
21 the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise



**REFLECT:** What new things do you see cropping up even in your wilderness? How can adjusting your vision help you focus on the new rather than the past?

**PRAYER:** God of new beginnings, thank You for all Your promises. Help me to see the new that You bring about even in my wilderness moments.

**WATCH:** “When God Says No—Broken Dreams to New Beginnings.”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbk\\_ZAH8oBY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbk_ZAH8oBY)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/... NIV>  
<https://odb.org/>

Dated for Wednesday, January 4, 2023  
by Our Daily Bread Ministries

Our Daily Bread Ministries | PO Box 2222 |  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2222

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy New Years Day!	2	3	4	5 Lynn Colleton	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Freddie Moore
15	16 MLK, JR. DAY	17	18	19 LaMonte Brown	20 Simon McRae	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

<https://militarybenefits.info/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/>  
<https://www.hfotusa.org/important-military-holidays-and-observances-for-2023/>  
<http://www.holidays-and-observances.com/military-holidays.html...>  
<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/2023>

**FEBRUARY 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 First Day of Black History Month	2 Ground Hog Day	3 4 Chaplains Day / USAT Dorchester sank WWII.	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	20 Robert Saunders Presidents' Day	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26	27	28 Darlene Saunders	<b>MARCH 1—</b> First Day of Women's History	2	3 Navy Reserve Birthday	4



RETIRED...

**R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.**



Motto:

"Men Striving Together to Make This A Better  
Community for All Concerned."

The RAFMAN Club Foundation is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization that consist of military veterans providing academic scholarships to students, social service for senior citizen, youth mentoring and civic outreach for those in need within the Central Florida Community.

R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.

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Alternate/ President Arthur Jarvis: (407) 426-1266



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