

## Rothman Statement Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 20, 2003

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Englewood, NJ - The following are excerpts of remarks delivered by Congressman Rothman honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr during services at Englewood's Ebenezer Baptist Church and Hackensack's Trinity Baptist Church on Monday, January 20, 2003.

"Each year, when I give my Martin Luther King, Jr. address, I reflect back on the years of work many of us put in to get Dr. King's holiday recognized as a national holiday. Like Lincoln and Washington, Dr. King is truly one of the most important founding fathers - an American leader with courage, strength, and a vision that has literally shaped America for the good.

"Dr. King's vision is not yet perfectly realized. We do not yet live in an entirely color blind society, where a person's humanity and character are all that one sees. But we are, in every observable and measurable way, much further along since Dr. King showed us the way.

"As always, we have more ground to cover, but we have our eyes on the prize. But to get where we need to go, we need to remember how far we came and how we made it to this place.

In its most important sense, it was the changing of our nation's laws that helped set the tone and direction for our nation. In our beloved democracy we can fulfill Dr. King's vision.

"It is our involvement in our political system - exercising our right to vote, a right earned in blood and suffering, that we have been able to elect people who would make the laws that have guided our nation closer to Dr. King's dreams.

"My friends, Dr. King's work is not done. Our work is not done. Let's keep our eyes on the prize and fighting and voting. May God Bless each of you and May God Bless America. •  
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