



Mayor Maddox's Statement on the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Words are inadequate as we remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this the 50th Anniversary of his assassination. For most of us in public service, when it comes to honoring Dr. King, we select one of his many inspirational quotes, and we try to summarize it in a way that is reaffirming and sanitized.

While intentions may be honorable, it falls woefully short of honoring an American patriot whose life was cut tragically short. Frankly, it is an impossible task to recognize a person who by sheer force of perseverance forced our nation to confront its original sin.

So, if our words are inadequate, then our only recourse is through our works, and for me, I see an opportunity to further Dr. King's dream through public service.

I was born nearly five years after that deadly evening in Memphis, Tennessee. Today, I'm 45 years old, and for my entire life, in everything that matters -- education, healthcare, infrastructure, you name it -- Alabama has ranked 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, or 50th.

Beyond the cold statistics, this means that parents are sending their children off to school with the false belief they will be ready for a 21st century economy. This means that mothers will lose their children because of the lack of pre-natal care. This means that towns, cities and counties are cut-off from their futures because their bridges and roads are crumbling.

People in Alabama are hurting because our leaders have lacked the courage of their convictions when it has mattered the most for Alabama's most vulnerable. Our state has been willing to make investments to bring industry, but it has been unwilling to invest in our education, healthcare, roads, bridges, or mental health. Winning the press conference may make our leaders feel good for a few minutes, but it has done nothing to solve the generational cycles of crime poverty and blight impacting too many of our fellow citizens.

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Understanding this, on this hallowed day, as we try to memorialize a man whose life is one of the most consequential in the course of human history, I believe the greatest testimonial we can provide is creating a New Covenant in Alabama's politics.

A covenant forged in the conviction to provide the next generation a better Alabama than the one we inherited. I am running for Governor because I owe it to my family, to my community and to the legacy of Dr. King to do my part in making a difference for all people.

I believe in the people of Alabama. I believe in Dr. King's vision of a more perfect Union, and the time is now to place our faith into works.

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