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## Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**By King Encyclopedia**

*Editor's note: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., this edition of Louisiana Business Journal highlights an excellent resource for information and materials regarding the civil rights leader. Its website ([kinginstitute.stanford.edu](http://kinginstitute.stanford.edu)) says: "Building upon the achievements of Stanford University's Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project, the King Institute supports a broad range of activities illuminating Dr. King's life and the movements he inspired." We are providing here the King Encyclopedia entry on the life of Dr. King. One of the King Institute's many online resources, the King Encyclopedia covers three hundred civil rights movement figures, events, and organizations. Additional sections include a freedom struggle chronology and featured documents.*

**King, Martin Luther Jr. (1929-1968)**—Martin Luther King Jr. made history, but he was also transformed by his deep family roots in the African-American Baptist church, his formative experiences in his hometown of Atlanta, his

theological studies, his varied models of religious and political leadership, and his extensive network of contacts in the peace and social justice movements of his time. Although King was only thirty-nine at the time of his death, his life was remarkable for the ways it reflected and inspired so many of the twentieth century's major intellectual, cultural, and political developments.

The son, grandson, and great-grandson of Baptist ministers, Martin Luther King Jr., named Michael King at birth, was born in Atlanta and spent his first twelve years in the Auburn Avenue home that his parents, the Reverend Michael King and Alberta Williams King, shared with his maternal grandparents, the Reverend Adam Daniel (A. D.) Williams and Jeannie Celeste Williams. After Reverend Williams's death in 1931, his son-in-law became Ebenezer Baptist Church's new pastor and gradually established himself as a major figure in state and national Baptist groups. The elder King began referring to himself (and later to his son) as Martin Luther King.

King's formative experiences not only immersed him in the affairs of Ebenezer, but also

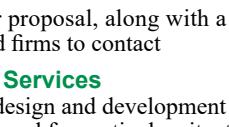


introduced him to the African-American social gospel tradition exemplified by his father and grandfather, both of whom were leaders of the Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

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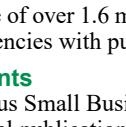
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