



**IAM Air Transport District 142**

9633 S 48th St, Ste 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85044  
816-982-6480  
iamd1142@iamd1142.org

**Date: January 20, 2025**  
**File: GEN – 2025**

2025 – 011

## **CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY: HONORING HIS LEGACY AND SUPPORT FOR LABOR**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is more than just a federal holiday; it is a day to reflect on the values of justice, equality, and community that Dr. King championed throughout his life. As we commemorate his legacy on January 20th, it's important to highlight his unwavering support for the labor movement and unions.

Dr. King became involved with labor unions in the mid-1950s during the civil rights movement. In 1961, he addressed the fourth AFL-CIO national convention, highlighting the connection between civil rights and labor rights. King noted that African Americans and union members were fighting for “decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children, and respect in the community.”

Dr. King understood that the fight for civil rights was linked to the struggle for economic justice. He believed true equality could not be achieved without fair wages, safe working conditions, and the right to organize. His participation in labor movements was not just an extension of his civil rights work but a fundamental piece of his vision for a just society.

Dr. King's work emphasized the importance of solidarity among all workers, regardless of race, gender, or job title. He recognized that labor unions are essential in fighting for workers' rights and creating equitable workplaces. King believed that unions are a powerful force in combating economic injustice and ensuring every worker is treated with dignity.

As our members in District 142 celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, let us always remember his commitment to the labor movement. His legacy inspires us to continue the fight for social and economic justice, knowing that when workers unite in solidarity, they can bring about meaningful change.

Sincerely and fraternally,

John M. Coveny, Jr.  
President/Directing General Chair

JMC/td

cc: R. Johnsen, General Vice-President, Air Transport Territory  
E. Fraser, Chief of Staff, Air Transport Territory  
T. Regan, Airline Coordinator, Air Transport Territory  
J. Carlson, Air Transport Coordinator  
DL 142 Executive Board

**POST ON ALL IAM BULLETIN BOARDS**