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## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Champion of Civil Rights and Working People**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Each year on MLK Day, we reflect on the life, legacy, and unfinished work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King deeply believed that the labor movement was one of the most powerful forces advancing equality in America: **“The strength of the labor movement is its ability to be the voice of the voiceless.”**

This belief was powerfully demonstrated during Dr. King’s final campaign in Memphis, Tennessee, where he stood shoulder to shoulder with sanitation workers who were striking for safer working conditions, fair pay, and recognition of their union. These workers’ struggle embodied the very issues Dr. King spent his life fighting: poverty, inequality, and the devaluation of human labor. His support of these workers reinforced his message that racial justice cannot be achieved without economic justice.

Dr. King spoke often and plainly about the importance of unions and the labor movement. He once said: **“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress.”**

And in words that still resonate today, Dr. King emphasized the dignity of all work: **“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”**

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, District 142 reaffirms its commitment to the principles Dr. King championed: justice, equality, solidarity, and respect for all people. We thank our members for continuing to stand up for one another, not only in the workplace, but also in their communities. By doing so, you honor Dr. King’s legacy and help carry his vision forward for future generations.

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  
J. Carlson, Airline Coordinator, Air Transport Territory  
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