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Nation rallies to remember slain black leader

By The Associated Press

Veterans of civil rights struggles in the United States and South Africa joined to remember Martin Luther King Jr. and his ideals today as the nation observed the first federal holiday honoring a black leader.

Vice President George Bush watched as King's son Dexter placed a wreath on his father's grave today in an Atlanta ceremony followed by an ecumenical service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King was pastor.

"In the name of Martin, we ain't going back," the Rev. Joseph Lowery, who heads the Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded by King, said at the service. "We've come too far, we've worked too strenuously, we've marched too long, we've prayed too hard, we've wept too bitterly, we've bled too profusely and we've died too young"

Attending the service in addition to Bush were Sens. Robert Dole, R-Kan., Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Bill Bradley, D-N.J., Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and Mack Mattingly, R-Ga.; Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young; Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris; and members of King's family.

Kennedy called King "the founding father of the second American revolution, the revolution of civil rights."

"He disturbed our peace by appealing to our conscience," said Dole, who called the service "one of the proudest moments in my public life."

South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, who received the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his opposition to his nation's racial segregation policies, was to be awarded the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize at the Atlanta service. Following that presentation, hundreds of former King colleagues and friends planned to march through the city.

"I'm so happy that today ... we are celebrating the first national holiday for a black American, which in a sense transcends Martin himself and really gives honor and respect to every black American, to those who struggled so long and so hard to make this country as great as it is," Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, said today on the "CBS Morning News."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said today "the jury is not in yet" on whether the government was behind the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Appearing on the "CBS Morning News," Jackson praised the slain civil rights leader as a "realist with high ideals" who was under pressure from the government in part because of his opposition to the war in Vietnam.

"We know he was character assassinated by our government. As to whether or not he was physically assassinated by them the question is still out. I mean the jury is not in yet on that," said Jackson, interviewed from New Orleans.

In Washington, FBI duty officer Jeff Maynard and Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland said they would have no comment on Jackson's remarks.

James Earl Ray received a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to the April 4, 1968, slaying of King at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Ray now contends he was coerced into pleading guilty.

Marches and rallies were scheduled today in several state capitals, including Boston, Indianapolis, Nashville, Tenn., Columbia, S.C., and Olympia, as well as Cincinnati, Ohio. About 5,000 people attended a citywide ecumenical service in Philadelphia sponsored by the city and People United to Serve Humanity.

All 485 students at a black high school in Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish stayed home today to protest the parish school board's refusal to recognize Martin Luther King Day as a holiday. "No one showed up this morning. No one but the teachers," said James Jones, assistant principal at Phoenix High School. Other parish workers had the day off.

In Alabama, where King's civil rights crusade began in 1955 with a boycott of Montgomery city buses, a 14-foot statue of King was to be unveiled today in Birmingham near the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young black girls were killed in a bombing.

In Montgomery, a prayer and church service are planned at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where King was pastor in the late 1950s, followed by a ceremony on the Capitol steps about a block from the church.

Tutu stood Sunday in the pulpit of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church and promised a campaign of civil disobedience against apartheid laws in his white-ruled nation.

Later in the day, Jackson spoke to worshippers at that church and afterwards led them to the slain civil rights leader's grave for a candlelight vigil. "This is holy ground," he said at the grave. "This ain't no ordinary place. This ain't no ordinary man. These candles must not go out, because we should be burning on the inside."

Jackson, one of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner's early disciples in the fight for racial equality, recalled that King spent his last birthday, his 39th, planning a demonstration, even though he was tired and had a headache.

"He wanted to turn back," Jackson recalled. "But he knew he had to go on, to do God's will. So he spent his last birthday alive organizing a demonstration for justice, for feeding the hungry, for empowerment."

Tutu, the keynote speaker at an international conference honoring King, said that if the South African government does not change its racial policies, he would lead "a campaign of civil disobedience against unjust laws."

"Our people are peaceful to a fault," he said. "We are stupid, for we keep going up against an intransigent government. They use tear gas, bullets, dogs and whips."



A Ku Klux Klan member, left, participates in a Saturday night cross-burning in an isolated field outside Pulaski, Tenn., in protest of the first national observance of Martin Luther King



Jr.'s birthday. LaRose Housworth, right, attends a candlelight vigil Sunday night at King's tomb in honor of the slain civil rights leader.

'Freedom Buses' mark observance

OLYMPIA (AP) — A chartered "Freedom Train" planned as part of today's birthday celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. will instead be a caravan of 32 "Freedom Buses," because of a train derailment Sunday, an organizer said.

Kent Stevenson, coordinator of the Freedom Train activity, said early today that the trip will go on as scheduled, with the only difference being that it will be by bus rather than train. The buses, which will carry 400 poor, elderly and handicapped people, was to be the centerpiece of Washington state's observance of the birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

Six buses carrying poor, elderly and handicapped people left Seattle's King Street train station an hour late this morning, bound for the state capital. They were rendezvousing with additional buses in Tacoma for the trip south. The bus trip is the centerpiece of Washington state's observance of

Walla Wallans comment about the meaning of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. See page 2.

King's birthday.

Once in Olympia, organizers planned a brief march to the Capitol Rotunda, Stevenson said.

Burlington Northern closed all rail traffic near Du Pont where an Amtrak train carrying 190 passengers derailed Sunday afternoon because of a roadbed washout.

State Rep. Jesse Wineberry, co-chairman of the 100-member Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, helped arrange the 120-mile journey.

Church and community agencies distributed the round-trip tickets. "The civil rights movement itself was akin to a freedom train," said Wineberry, "because it moved blacks out of the shackles of second-class citizenship."

"And the Freedom Train is the cen-

terpiece of all this year's King activities because it serves the people whom Martin Luther King Jr. lived and died for."

Other events planned include a teach-in dealing with King's ideas and work at Garfield High School in Seattle and a march to run along Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Seattle. In Eastern Washington, observances were planned at the Spokane YWCA and Whitworth College.

On Sunday, a top Nicaraguan official told an audience at Seattle's First Baptist Church that the U.S. opposes the Sandinista government because it has "converted the dreams of Martin Luther King into reality."

Omar Cabezas, vice minister of the interior and chief of the national police, is making a West Coast tour trying to turn American public opinion against intervention in Nicaragua. "Miami Vice" co-star Philip Michael Thomas told a crowd of 1,000

Sunday night in Seattle that King "is living his dream through each one of us."

Thomas also recited a poem by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Charles Gordon based on 1960s civil rights demonstrations and sang "Everything Happens in Its Own Time."

"We have a long way to go in America and in the world," Thomas said.

On Saturday, about 100 people, many of them singing, braved chilly morning winds for a march from the Spokane County Courthouse to the Federal Building downtown.

The march was sponsored by the East Central Community Center and the Martin Luther King Memorial Center.

Attorney Bevan Maxey told the crowd the holiday is a time to "reflect on the lessons of Martin Luther King and make sure young people continue to know and continue to learn from them."

Force of rainstorm failed to reach east

Compiled from local and wire sources

Authorities are now trying to assess the damage from a fierce weekend rainstorm in Western Washington that spawned floods and mudslides that washed out rail lines, pushed houses off foundations, injured two people and forced dozens of evacuations.

The weekend storm, however, was not as forceful in the eastern part of the state.

In Walla Walla, Saturday's chinook combined with 0.27 inches of rain Sunday to wash out several county roads. Closed are Wooden Road near Prescott, Lions Ferry Road at both ends, a portion of Barstow Road, Smith Springs Road at Clyde, and Van Holenback Road.

Water is flowing over the roads in places, and the Walla Walla County Engineer's Office advises rural motorists to drive with caution. Locally, no rain-related accidents have been reported.

"We shouldn't be getting much more rain," said Bob Farrell, meteorologist with the Walla Walla office of the National Weather Service.

Farrell predicted sunshine at times this afternoon, with tomorrow partly sunny and cooler, with highs near 40. The chance of more rain on Tuesday is slim, about 10 percent, Farrell said.

Although the weekend storm caused only minor damage in Walla Walla County, areas of Western Washington were hit hard.

A mudslide near Edmonds, north of Seattle, covered part of a Burlington

Northern rail line with 3-foot-deep mud, prompting the diversion of two Amtrak "Empire Builder" trains linking Seattle and Chicago.

Dan Engstrom, crew base supervisor in Seattle, said the trains were diverted through the Columbia Gorge and Vancouver.

"What we have is a big mess in a lot of places," said spokeswoman Sue Robinson of the King County Public Works Department. She said County Executive Tim Hill has requested a preliminary repair estimate, which she said could reach millions of dollars.

"Dozens of roads and intersections are still closed," she said.

Sea-Tac's 2.98 inches of rain in one 24-hour period broke the January record of 2.47 inches, set in 1951, the Weather Service said.

Four homes were reported damaged in Juanita, an east Seattle suburb on the shore of Lake Washington, where a large bank separating Juanita Drive from Juanita Lane sloughed off, tumbling Teresa and Bryce Michael before it.

The Michaels, both 25, had worked with their neighbors to dam the flow of water.

Bryce Michael underwent surgery Sunday at Evergreen General Hospital for critical injuries, said nursing supervisor Linda Turner, while Teresa Michael suffered only minor injuries and was discharged Saturday.

One of the Juanita houses was damaged when the mud slammed a fire



Herman Bischofberger of Juanita on Sunday looks at some of the damage to his home caused by a Saturday night mudslide which hit after a nearby water-soaked hillside gave away. Both cars were pushed out of the garage by the force of the mudslide.

truck into it.

Redmond, a suburb east of Seattle, declared a state of emergency Saturday as 50 to 60 people were evacuated from the Friendly Village Mobile Home Park on Bear Creek, as water came within an inch of power boxes, said Bob Morton, Redmond police operations commander.

Three West Seattle families were evacuated from their homes Saturday when their homes were damaged, said Seattle Fire Department officials.

About five families in Darrington were evacuated due to flooding. Another mudslide washed a section of railroad tracks into one man's

backyard between Bellevue and Renton, said King County Police Sgt. Robert Collett.

The Red Cross set up four emergency shelters in Seattle's eastern suburbs Saturday, but closed them Sunday, said spokeswoman Hope Tuttle.

The Hood Canal Bridge, which was closed intermittently Saturday, sustained no structural damage, said Transportation Department spokeswoman Heidi Keller, though work crews had to make adjustments to the span that opens for boats.

Travelers were stranded Saturday by that and other road closures on the Olympic Peninsula.

Amtrak train derails; 20 passengers injured

DU PONT (AP) — An Amtrak train carrying 208 people jumped the track on a stretch weakened by heavy rain, injuring at least 20, officials said.

"It was the first time we were ever on a train, and we almost didn't make it," said Waltraud Veltman, a passenger from Glendora, Calif., who was traveling Sunday afternoon with her 18-month-old granddaughter.

"We took the train because I'm afraid of flying," she said. "Now, I'm afraid of trains, too."

The nine-car Coast Starlight, en route from Los Angeles to Seattle, derailed in a steep, wooded area one mile west of Interstate 5 in a region drenched by heavy rain last week. It went off the tracks Sunday afternoon on Burlington Northern rail line about 45 miles south of Seattle, said BN spokesman Howard Kallio.

Twenty passengers and eight crew members were treated at five area hospitals, said Amtrak spokesman John Jacobsen. All were released Sunday night except for Myrtle Young, 92, of Victoria, British Columbia.

day night except for Myrtle Young, 92, of Victoria, British Columbia.

She was admitted to St. Peter Hospital in Olympia with back injuries, but was in satisfactory condition, hospital spokesman David Coble said.

The train carried 192 passengers and 16 crew, Jacobsen said. Five workers — the engine crew and conductors — are BN employees, he said.

The derailment was caused by "a washout of the roadbed underneath" the tracks, Burlington Northern spokesman T. Warnstadt said. He said most of the injuries occurred when there was a sudden lurching as the front cars derailed.

The passenger train was running about two miles behind a freight train, said Pierce County Sheriff's Capt. Steve Pyorthress. The freight train apparently had no difficulty and gave no warning to the Coast Starlight, he said.

Partly cloudy



Partly cloudy with patchy fog developing by Tuesday morning, lows tonight in the upper 20s. Winds becoming light and variable. Mostly sunny Tuesday after some early morning fog or

low clouds. Highs in the low to mid-40s Tuesday. See page 7.

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