



WHEN: The *2023 Justice Sunday Service Around the Clock* will stream from the 400 YAAHC website beginning at Noon EST on **Justice Sunday**, **January 15, 2023**, and continuing through 12:05am on Monday, January 16, the federal holiday designated as the MLK Day of Service.

## THEME: "A CHARGE TO KEEP WE HAVE TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE"

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and opportunity for all. He challenged all Americans to participate in the never-ending work of building a more perfect union. The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 16, 2023, will mark the 28th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

## Justice Sunday Service Around the Clock

The 400 Years of African American History Commission (400 YAAHC) is pleased to announce plans to engage all generations through the *2023 Justice Sunday Service Around the Clock*. This compelling virtual tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the pursuit of justice, viewed by over 11,000 persons in Year One and climbing, calls attention to his selfless service, his vocation as a leader emboldened by faith, and to our obligation to sustain the efforts that he and thousands began to address pressing social and societal issues.

**GUEST PARTICIPATION:** Each hour will feature virtual participation of a diverse and distinguished lineup of Congressional, national, local, faith, service organizations **and performing adult and youth leaders versed in public** service to continue the tradition of the commemorative MLK weekend. Back for the third year, highly acclaimed Actor Ernie Hudson will serve as celebrity host.

Ernie Hudson is an American actor who has appeared in dozens of film and television roles throughout his career. He is perhaps best known for his roles as Winston Zeddemore in the Ghostbusters film series, Sergeant Darryl Albrecht in The Crow (1994), and Warden Leo Glynn on HBO's Oz (1997-2003.

Most currently, Ernie stars as Herbert "Magic" Williams on the new NBC drama, "Quantum Leap." Magic is the head of the Quantum Leap project and juggles taking care of his team while also answering to his bosses at the Pentagon.

Hudson recently reprised his signature character, Winston Zeddemore, in the 2021 Jason Reitman movie, "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" and wrapped the Bobby Farrelly-directed "Champions," opposite Woody Harrelson. For television, Hudson executive produces and stars in the BET series, "The family Business" and will next be seen in the upcoming third season of Showtime's "City on a Hill." He will also appear in the Catherine Hardwicke film, "Prisoner's Daughter," opposite Brian Cox and Kate Beckinsale. Hudson also starred on the award-winning Netflix series, "Grace and Frankie."

## ABOUT THE 400 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION

The 400 Years of African American History Commission Act, Public Law 115-102 signed into law January 8, 2018, established a 15-member commission to coordinate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the English colonies. The Commission is legislated to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States that recognize and highlight the resilience and cultural contributions of African Americans over 400 years and beyond.

400 YAAHC priorities include to acknowledge the impact of slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination on the United States; To encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and take part in anniversary activities and assists states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration and help shape the inclusive 250th anniversary of America; and, to coordinate public scholarly research about the arrival of Africans and their contributions to the United States.



"...You must study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time ... Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring..." The late Representative John Lewis

The observance of Justice Sunday was founded by the **National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ**).

To aid in public safety, the doors of faith and other institutions across America were closed to mass gatherings indefinitely at the height of the COVID pandemic. Prior to this, Justice Sunday had been most frequently observed as a day on which centers of faith assembled in the United States and beyond to enlist, and to mobilize the armies of service, compassion, and collaboration. The occasion was also formally adopted by the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.



Employing a strategy which would bring the observance into homes on demand, in 2021, the 400 Years of African American History Commission partnered with NAFJ and expanded the observance to offer a 12-hour virtual platform. As a result, Justice Sunday was formally expanded to be known as Justice Sunday Service Around the Clock.

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Justice Sunday Service Around the Clock is now available on streaming TV channel ON Demand on ROKU, Apple TV, Amazon Firestick, at <u>smogotelevision.com</u> or on the Commission's website at <u>www.400yaahc.gov</u>.