

Review Us On **facebook** 
@VermontJournal

Get More News **Online!** 
www.VermontJournal.com

Small Business **Spotlight**
See Page 38

ECRWSS
PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #90
White River Jct., VT
POSTAL CUSTOMER

FREE
THE Vermont Journal
JANUARY 11, 2017 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM VOLUME 17, ISSUE 02

The hard-won campaign to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

BY TERRI J. HUCK

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

REGION - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which falls on Jan. 16 this year, is the result of a long, tireless struggle to honor the man who was the chief leader of nonviolent activism during the Civil Rights Movement. The legislative effort to establish a national holiday took 15 years, and full nationwide participation took another 17 years.

Within days of King's assassination in April 1968, Michigan Rep. John Conyers first introduced legislation calling for a federal holiday; he continued to do so year after year as lawmakers refused to move the bill forward. In the meantime, Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey passed statewide laws to commemorate King.

A bill to honor him with a federal holiday finally moved through Congress in 1979—after multiple congressional appearances by King's widow, the late Coretta Scott King; pressure from then-President Jimmy Carter; and a grassroots lobbying effort. However, the bill fell five votes short of passage, with opponents arguing that it would be too expensive to give federal employees the day off or that King did not deserve such recognition.

Undeterred, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, established by Coretta Scott King in 1968, sought the support of companies and the public. Stevie Wonder's 1980 hit song "Happy Birthday" popularized the campaign, and 6 million people signed

a petition urging Congress to pass the law, which had been reintroduced by Indiana Rep. Katie Hall.

In 1983, Congress finally approved the bill, and President Ronald Reagan signed it into law. It didn't take effect until 1986, and even then, many states resisted or combined it with other holidays. It wasn't until 2000 that all 50 states officially observed the holiday. Arizona, New Hampshire and Utah were the last three states to recognize it, and South Carolina was the last to designate it as a paid holiday for state employees. Previously, those employees could choose between Martin Luther King Jr. Day and three Confederate holidays.

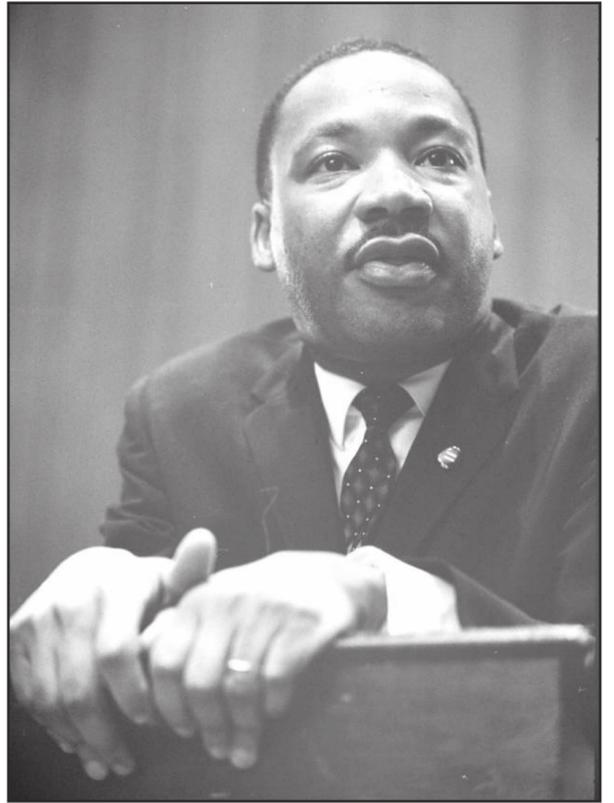
Even today, some states still combine Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday, and less than 40 percent of employers treat it as a paid holiday. However, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated around the world, including in Toronto, Canada, and Hiroshima, Japan.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed legislation that urges Americans to spend Martin Luther King Jr. Day in service to others. To learn more or find a volunteer opportunity near you, go to NationalService.gov/MLKDay.



Coretta Scott King (far left) looks on as President Ronald Reagan signs legislation establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Martin Luther King, Jr. 1964.

PHOTO PROVIDED

I-91 Rockingham Bridges - a continuous update

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The following is the anticipated schedule of the construction to take place on the I-91 Rockingham Bridges #24S & 24N over the Williams River beginning January 09, 2017.

Weather permitting, I-91 southbound travel lane only (right lane) over the bridge con-

tinues to be closed until approximately January 13 to allow crews to drill test borings. The left (passing) lane will be open to thru traffic and motorists should have little to no delays.

It is anticipated that from January 17 - 27 the northbound travel lane only (right lane) will be closed

along with the northbound Exit 6 on-ramp. Traffic needing to use the Exit 6 on-ramp will be detoured to Route 5 north to I-91 Exit 7 on-ramp.

Please note that these dates are subject to change due to weather/road conditions. Motorists use extreme caution as the safety of the

workers along with themselves is of the utmost importance.

The Public Relations telephone number to call with any questions or concerns regarding this project is 802-862-6085 or 866-602-6868. Find updates/changes at: <http://countonitinc.com/road-construction-updates/>

Calvin Essay contest encourages students to understand and solve political divisions

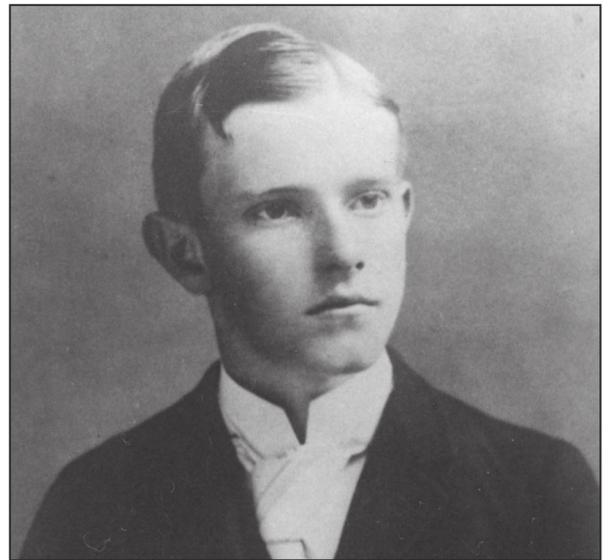
PLYMOUTH, Vt. - President Calvin Coolidge was known for his civility and his ability to work across the aisle. Do you think Coolidge could win the presidency today? What lessons from President Coolidge might help heal our political divisions? What can you do in your own life to encourage civility in America's political dialogue while still advocating for the things in which you believe?

These powerful ideas are to be explored in the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation's 2017 Calvin Essay Contest. This is open to all Vermont students or students who go to school in Vermont age 13 through 18. A first place prize of \$1500 and second place prize of \$500 will be awarded. Students are to prepare an article, essay, or poem of 800 words

or fewer that addresses these questions. Due May 19, 2017.

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation is the official foundation dedicated to preserving the legacy and promoting the values of America's 30th president. The Foundation was formed in 1960 by John Coolidge, the president's son, along with a group of fellow Coolidge enthusiasts. The Foundation is headquartered at the president's birthplace in Plymouth Notch, Vermont and offers a variety of programs including History Exploration Programs at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, Outreach, and Debate Programs.

For full information and resources, see: <https://coolidgefoundation.org/blog/2016-calvin-prize-for-vermont-youth/> Contact education@calvin-coolidge.org or call 802-672-3389.



Calvin Coolidge as a student. What lessons from President Coolidge might help heal our political divisions?

PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cooking for students

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The Collaborative hosted a 6-week long cooking class for students in grades 5-8 from Flood Brook School. The students prepared and tried new foods including veggie quesadillas, lo mein, black bean chocolate chip muffins, frittatas, yogurt parfaits and baked ziti. One student exclaimed, "I wasn't expecting to like the black bean muffins but I did!" Along with cooking, the students also learned about nutrition and physical activity. We want to thank IGA Clark's for generously donating food for this cooking class!

For more information about The Collaborative's programs visit our website at www.thecollaborative.us or contact Laura Muro at 802-824-4200. The Collaborative's mission is to promote the development of a healthy, involved community supporting the development of substance-free youth.

INDEX

Editorial..... 6A
Church Services/Obituaries.....7A
Arts & Entertainment8A, 8B
Sports..... 1B
Outdoor News..... 2B
Directory/Classifieds/Spotlight..... 3B
Legal Notices 3B - 6B
Calendar..... 4B - 6B

CONTACT US

OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149

MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 228 • Ludlow, VT 05149

PHONE NUMBERS:
Ph: 802-228-3600 • Fax: 802-228-3464

WEBSITE

www.vermontjournal.com



VISIT US ONLINE

ADVERTISEMENTS

Please have your box / display ads sent in by **Friday at 12pm**

802-228-3600
ads@VermontJournal.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Please have your line item classifieds sent in by **Friday at 12pm**

802-228-3600
ads@VermontJournal.com

NEWS

Please send your press releases, articles, and images by **Friday at 12pm**

802-228-3600
editor@VermontJournal.com