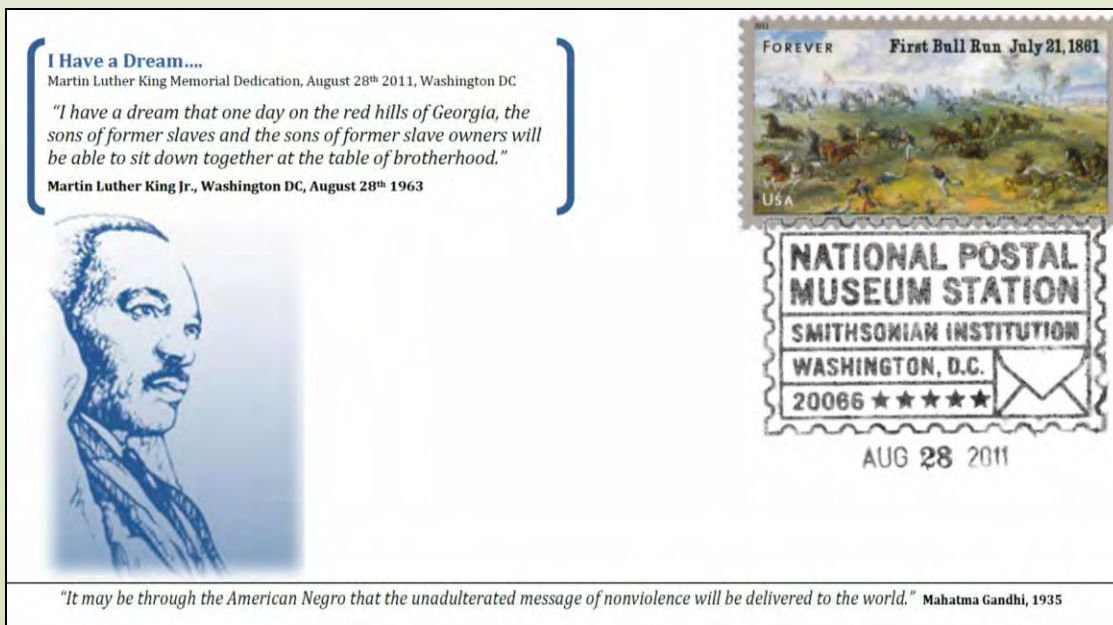
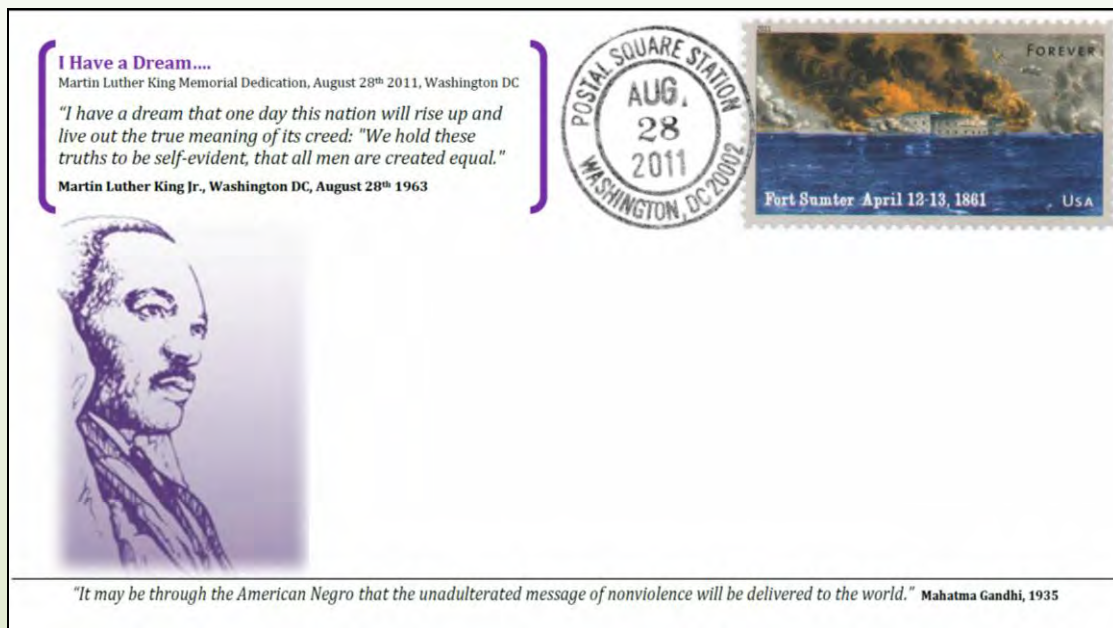




On August 28th 2011, the Martin Luther King National Memorial was scheduled to be dedicated during celebrations scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington and Rev. King's "I have a Dream" Speech at the National Mall 48 years ago. On April 12th 2011, the United States Postal Service issued two commemorative "forever" stamps - the first in a series of stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The stamps depict the start of the war (Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor) and the first major battle (Capture of Rickett's Battery during the Battle of First Bull Run).

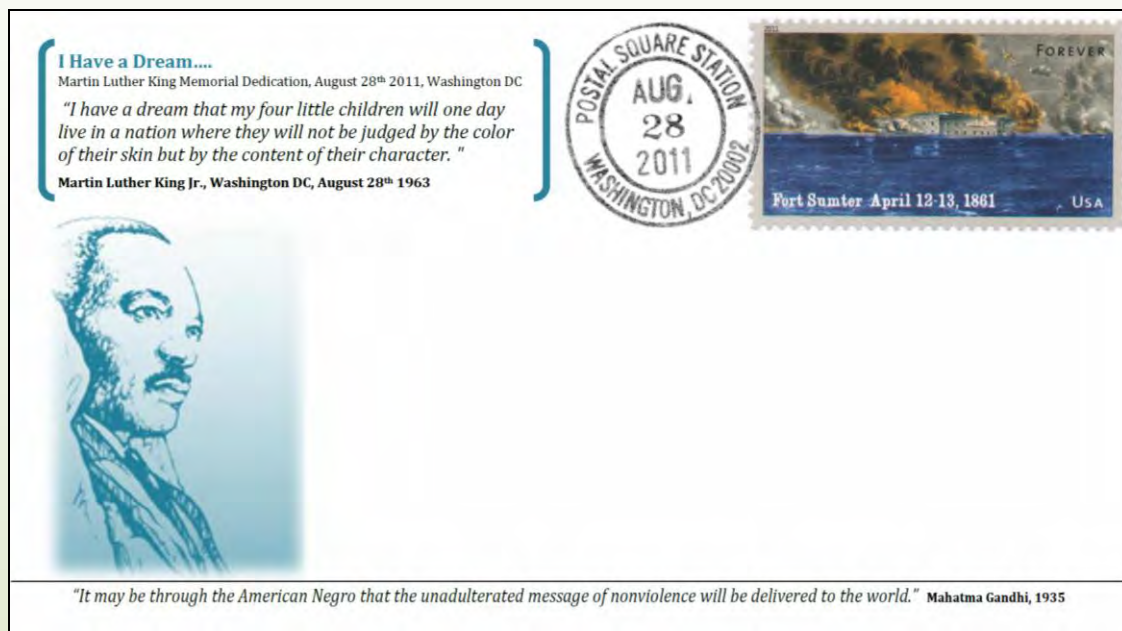
The April 2011 stamps were combined with the planned August 2011 event in a set of six special covers prepared for the memorial dedication. The cachet of the covers included an image of Dr. Martin Luther King, along with text depicting the six "dreams" he shared in his 1963 "I have a dream" speech. Much like the Civil War failed to achieve true racial equality in the United States, the 2011 MLK memorial dedication plans suffered a setback when hurricane Irene swept through Washington DC and the August 28th events were postponed.





All six commemorative covers carried the following text at the bottom- a quote from an interview Mahatma Gandhi gave to North American journalists in 1935: "It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." The colors of the rainbow were used for the six covers, to represent Dr. King's struggle for racial equality.

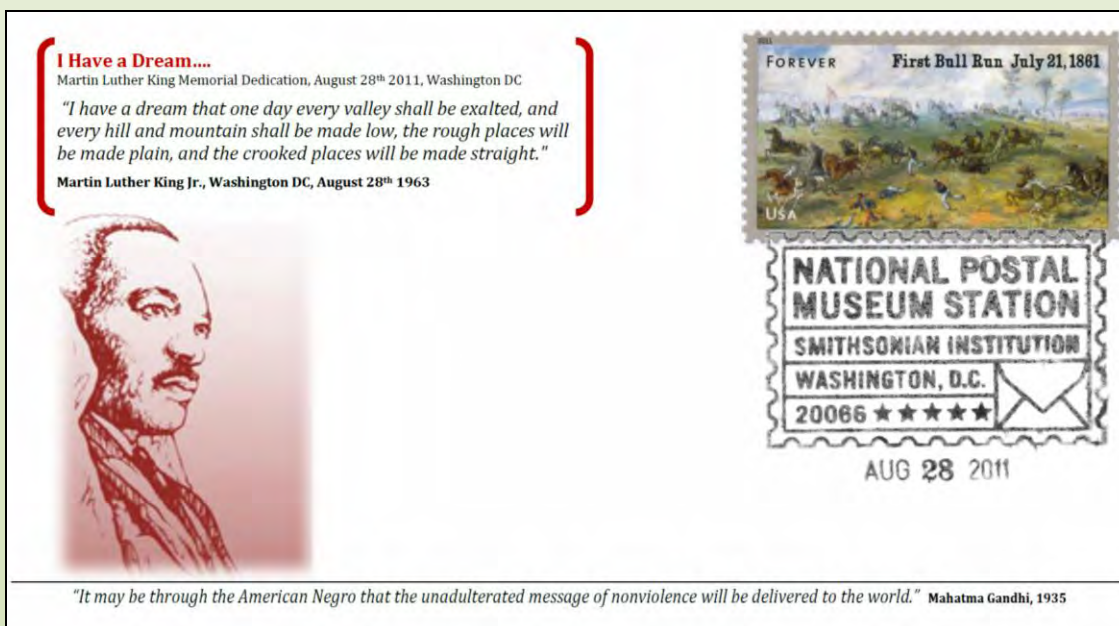
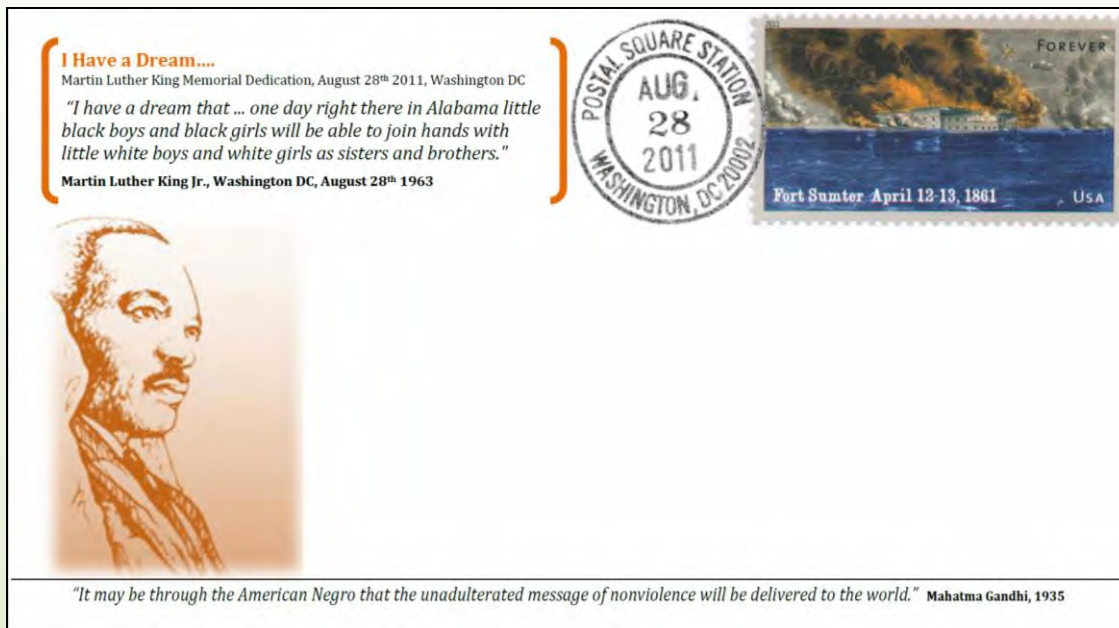
Ten sets of these commemorative covers were prepared by philatelist Raj V. Rajan of Victor, NY and processed with two different date cancels from Washington, DC. Upon special request, these cancellations were serviced by Ms. Ladonna A. Cooke at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's post office on August 28th 2011 (the only Washington DC post office open on Sundays). As with the Nobel centennial commemorative covers prepared at Chicagopex 2001, the December 2009 UN-Obama Nobel Peace Prize commemorative covers, and the September 2010 Mother Teresa commemorative first day covers, these 2011 Martin Luther King Memorial commemorative covers will be shared with a select group of organizations and individuals.





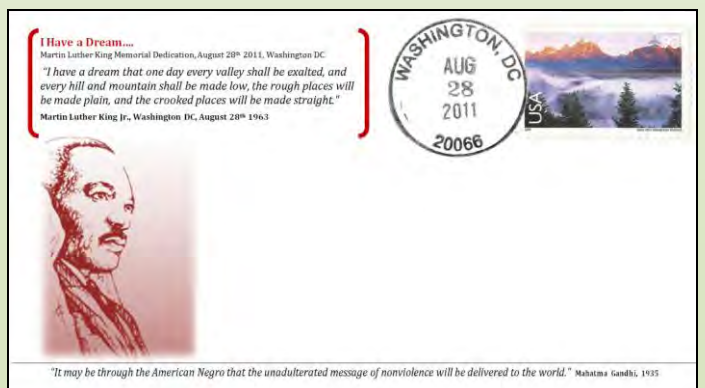
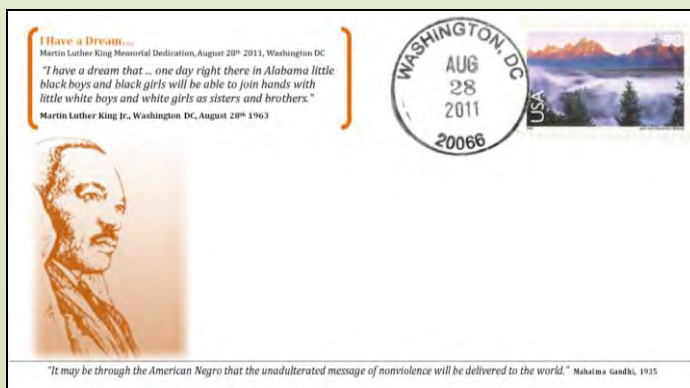
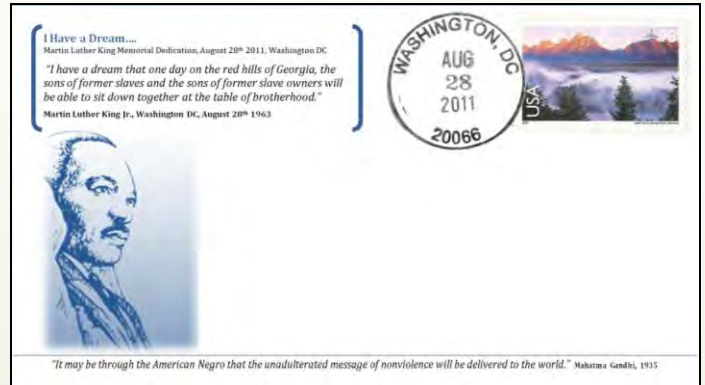
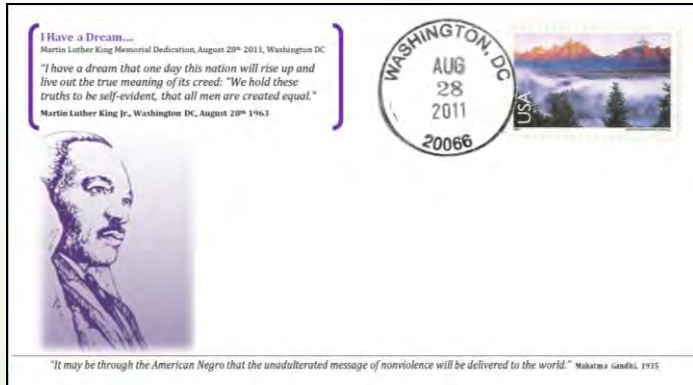
Information on the Nobel Centennial covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/Gandhi and the Nobel Peace Prize.pdf>. Information on the 2009 UN-Obama Nobel Peace Prize commemorative covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/PDF/2009 Nobel Peace Prize and the UN.pdf>. Information on the 2010 Mother Teresa covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/PDF/Mother Teresa 2010 FDCs.pdf>.

The 2001, 2009 and 2010 covers were prepared to be shared with (1) The Nobel Museum, Stockholm, Sweden, (2) Gandhi Memorial Museum, New Delhi, India, and (3) The M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence [Rochester NY, USA]. These six August 2011 commemorative covers will also be shared with the same organizations.





In addition to these ten sets of commemorative covers prepared with stamps for domestic postage (44c), one additional set was prepared with the 98c Grand Teton National Park definitive stamp (airmail rate) and mailed to an address in Singapore on August 28th 2011 from Washington DC. A third variety of the circular date stamp from Washington DC (ZIP code 20066) was used on these postally used commemorative covers.





The Martin Luther King National Memorial was rescheduled to be dedicated on October 16th 2011. To commemorate this occasion, another set of ten covers with the theme of the Civil Rights Movement was prepared. To tell the story behind the Civil Rights Movement, the U.S Postal Service has issued a 10-stamp series in 2005 entitled "In Order to Form A More Perfect Union", coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

These ten stamps depict the non-violent struggle to achieve the more perfect Union, in contrast to the Civil War. This is captured in the text of the cachets- "Dream to Reality: What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did".



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of the Armed Forces
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

July 26, 1948. President Harry S. Truman abolished racial segregation in the armed forces through Executive Order 9981.

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Education
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

May 17, 1954. Brown v. Board of Education was a landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court that declared that the Kansas state law establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional. The decision overturned the Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896, which had allowed state-sponsored segregation.

Under Chief Justice Earl Warren the US Supreme Court's unanimous (9-0) decision stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935





The ten stamps in the set carried the 2005 face value for first class postage (37c) and depicted events associated with the Civil Rights movement from 1948 to 1965. Additional postage (the 1961 8c Gandhi stamp) was used to bring the value up to current first class mail rate. A graphic timeline at the bottom of the cachet denotes the specific year of the milestone depicted in each commemorative cover.






All ten commemorative covers also carried the following text at the bottom: "It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." The colors of the rainbow were again used for the ten covers, to represent Dr. King's struggle for racial equality.



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Local Public Transit
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

December 1, 1955. Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested for refusing to surrender her bus seat to a white person in Montgomery, Alabama. This started the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a social protest campaign intended to oppose the city's policy of racial segregation on its public transit system.

On December 20, 1956 a federal ruling, *Browder v. Gayle*, took effect and led to a US Supreme Court decision that declared the Alabama and Montgomery laws requiring segregated buses to be unconstitutional.








"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935

Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Schools
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

September 4, 1957. On their first day of school, a group of nine African-American students who were enrolled in Little Rock Central High School were blocked from entering the school by troops from the Arkansas National Guard. The Mayor of Little Rock asked for federal troops to enforce integration.

On September 24 1957, President Eisenhower ordered the 101st Airborne Division of the US Army to Little Rock and federalized the 10,000 member Arkansas National Guard, taking it out of the hands of the Governor of Arkansas.



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935



Ten sets of these commemorative covers were prepared by philatelist Raj V. Rajan of Victor, NY and processed with a date cancels from Washington, DC. Upon special request, these cancellations were serviced by Ms. Ladonna A. Cooke at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's post office on October 16th 2011 (the only Washington DC post office open on Sundays).

As with the Nobel centennial commemorative covers prepared at Chicagopex 2001, the 2009 UN-Obama Nobel Peace Prize commemorative covers, the 2010 Mother Teresa commemorative first day covers, and the August 2011 MLK memorial covers, these October 2011 Martin Luther King Memorial commemorative covers will be shared with a select group of organizations and individuals.



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Eating Places
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
 Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
 October 16th 2011, Washington DC

February 1, 1960. Four students from the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina sat down at the lunch counter inside the Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina. These sit-ins were a series of nonviolent protests which led to the department store chain reversing its policy of racial segregation.

On July 25, 1960 black employees of Greensboro's Woolworth's store were the first to be served at the store's lunch counter. The next day, the entire chain was desegregated, serving blacks and whites alike.



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Transportation
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
 Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
 October 16th 2011, Washington DC

May 4, 1961. "Freedom Riders"- civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated south [to test a 1960 Supreme Court decision which overturned a judgment convicting an African American law student for trespassing by being in a restaurant at a bus terminal labeled "whites only"] left Washington, D.C.

The buses were attacked by organized mobs in the Carolinas, Alabama and Mississippi. President John Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy called for a "cooling off period" and condemned the Rides as unpatriotic, because they embarrassed the nation.



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935





Information on the Nobel Centennial covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/Gandhi and the Nobel Peace Prize.pdf>. Information on the 2009 UN-Obama Nobel Peace Prize commemorative covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/PDF/2009 Nobel Peace Prize and the UN.pdf>. Information on the 2010 Mother Teresa covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/PDF/Mother Teresa 2010 FDCs.pdf>.



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Discourse
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

August 28, 1963. The March on Washington was a large rally in support of civil and economic rights for African Americans that took place in Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech advocating racial harmony. Observers estimated that 75–80% of the marchers were black and the rest were white and other minorities.

The historic march, organized by a group of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, is widely credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act ('64) and the Voting Rights Act ('65).



1948 1954 1955 1957 1960 1961 1963 1964 1965

"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935



Dream to Reality: The Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

July 2, 1964. The Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination against blacks and women, including racial segregation, was passed. It ended unequal treatment of races in schools, at the workplace and by facilities that served the public ("public accommodations").

Congress asserted its authority under the US Constitution: its power to regulate interstate commerce (Article One), its duty to guarantee equal protection under the law (14th Amendment) and its duty to protect voting rights (15th Amendment).



1948 1954 1955 1957 1960 1961 1963 1964 1965

"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935





The 2001, 2009 and 2010 covers were prepared to be shared with (1) The Nobel Museum, Stockholm, Sweden, (2) Gandhi Memorial Museum, New Delhi, India, and (3) The M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence [Rochester NY, USA]. These ten October 2011 commemorative covers will also be shared with the same organizations.



Dream to Reality: Fighting for Voting Rights
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

March 7, 1965. 600 civil rights marchers were attacked by state and local police in Selma, Alabama ("Bloody Sunday"). The three Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965 marked the political and emotional peak of the American civil rights movement.

Only the third march, which began on March 21st and lasted five days, made it to the state capital. Protected by 2,000 soldiers of the U.S. Army, 1,900 members of the Alabama National Guard under Federal command, and many FBI agents and Federal Marshals, the marchers arrived at the Alabama Capitol building in Montgomery on March 25th 1965.



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935



Dream to Reality: The Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC

August 6, 1965. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law in Washington D.C., with Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and other civil rights leaders in attendance.

The Act prohibits states from imposing any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure ... to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." Specifically, Congress intended the Act to outlaw the practice of requiring otherwise qualified voters to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote, a principal means by which Southern states had prevented African-Americans from exercising the franchise.



"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935






In addition to these ten sets of commemorative covers prepared with stamps for domestic postage, one additional set was prepared with the 98c Grand Teton National Park definitive stamp (airmail rate) and mailed to an address in Singapore on October 16th 2011 from Washington DC. Two other sets of ten covers were mailed to Victor New York with the 2011 Barbara Jordan "forever" stamp and the 2011 Civil War stamps. These were all cancelled with the double circle Washington DC circular date stamp (Zip code 20002).



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Discourse
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC




August 28, 1963. The March on Washington was a large rally in support of civil and economic rights for African Americans that took place in Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech advocating racial harmony. Observers estimated that 75-80% of the marchers were black and the rest were white and other minorities.

The historic march, organized by a group of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, is widely credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act ('64) and the Voting Rights Act ('65).



1948 1954 1955 1957 1960 1961 1963 1964 1965


"It may be through the American Negro that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Mahatma Gandhi, 1935



Dream to Reality: Desegregation of Public Discourse
What Civil War Could Not Achieve, Civil Rights Activism Did
Rescheduled Martin Luther King Memorial Dedication
October 16th 2011, Washington DC




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