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NAVSEA celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I out to be until you are what you out to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality. – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

NAVSEA observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a ceremony and keynote speaker, Jan. 18. The theme of the ceremony was, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"



The keynote speaker, Marcus Gentry, led the audience through a program entitled, "I Have a Dream, A King's Journey." The dramatic presentation covered stories of the people and events that helped shape Dr. King and his path to becoming the nation's leader on civil rights. Gentry's dramatic and emotional storytelling, accompanied by photos and video footage from these events, brought many in the audience to tears.

Gentry, also known as Dr. Respect, travels the nation speaking to groups to help people develop and maintain respect, discipline, vision, focus, roles and responsibilities, overcoming challenges, communication, pursuing goals, creating opportunities for success and developing positive relationships with peers and adults.

In addition to Gentry, the ceremony included remarks by Karen Davis, Naval Surface Warfare executive director and two performances by NAVSEA's African-American Employee Resource Groups (AAERG) band. Ivenetta Smith, Maintenance and Industrial Operations (SEA04), read the poem "Every Step Forward Counts" by Leon Hatchett, PEO Submarines. Larry Douchand, Navy Facilities Command (NAVFAC), Environmental Programs assistant commander provided closing remarks.

Members of the AAERG band included Keyona Hargett, Michael Vinson, Ralph Moore, Jamil Jones, and Kyle Adams from the NAVSEA Command Information Office, and Motrell Smith, PEO Ships.

The ceremony was organized by NAVSEA's AAERG in partnership with NAVSEA's Women's ERG, NAVFAC and Strategic Systems Program.



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