

# Honoring a Man of Greatness

by

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Poetess Kalamu Chaché was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She has lived and worked in East Palo Alto, California since the mid-1960s. Throughout her residency, Chaché has served the greater East Palo Alto community and San Francisco Bay Area in numerous professional, executive, administrative, advocacy, and artistic areas of employment and volunteer services for a variety of community-based programs, causes and events specializing in youth/community development and the literary/performing arts.

Chaché continues to serve as a long-time cultural arts activist, advocate, initiator, producer, promoter, writer, author, educator, vocalist, songwriter, and performing artist. She is the author of three volumes of poetry and appears in several book anthologies. Chaché also serves as the Poet Laureate of the City of East Palo Alto, California (1983); Recording Artist with the Sons and Daughters of Lite, Daughters of Lite, and the Beatless DJ Group for Ubiquity Records (2000); Solo Recording Artist on the Undercurrent Records label for the National Black United Front (1984—1987) and SONWA Records (2015). In addition to these accomplishments, Chaché is the mother of one daughter and serves as an advocate for, friend and mentor to thousands of children and youth who are within her sphere of influence.

Poetess Kalamu Chache, Lakiba Pittman and Charlotte "Mama C" O'Neal led the homecoming ceremony for Amiri Baraka, Jayne Cortez, Wanda Coleman and other BAM ancestors at the 2014 UC Merced Black Arts Movement Conference.

## Honoring a Man of Greatness

We continue to honor the life of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., year after year,  
Because he was the essence of real love.  
He stood up for us, without hate or fear.  
He loved us so proudly and deeply.  
He did everything he could to bring about  
A world where we could live completely  
Free as a people, without any doubt.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left us with a dream  
Of justice, freedom, and equality.  
We are still working to realize this dream  
Everywhere we are in this world and country.  
We still honor this man of greatness  
Who left us with a great song to sing.  
We still honor this man of greatness  
Who called for us to "Let Freedom Ring."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream must be carried on.  
We must commit to living the dream every day,  
Since his time with us has long been gone.  
It's imperative that we work together in every way.  
More than ever, there's a need to keep the dream alive.  
We've got a lot of work before us to do,  
If we are to make more progress and thrive.  
May The Creator help us all to make it through.