

**The Annually Love & Worship Center Ministries
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Celebration
Fort Coombs National Guard Armory - January 16, 2012
Mayor Van Johnson's Remarks**

As always, it's an honor for me to be in fellowship with the Love & Worship Center Ministries and especially on an occasion where we celebrate the birth and the legacy of one of America's greatest heroes.

I like to thank the Apostle Shirley C. White and the entire Love Center family, not only for the invitation to make a few remarks, but also for the incredible effort poured into this community event year after year. I commend each of you for a job well done.

As Mayor of Apalachicola, it would be remiss of me if I didn't extend a special welcome to one of our native sons and today's keynote speaker, Dr. Fredrick Humphries. Dr. Humphries - welcome home, it is an honor to have you back in the Historic City of Apalachicola.

Although today is a day of great celebration, it is also a day of contemplation, where we not only reflect upon the memory of Dr. King, but also resolve within ourselves to walk in the footsteps of his dream. Otherwise, those precious words of liberty and justice for all - will forever ring hollow.

Dr. King's belief that the American dream was everyone's inalienable right, is the very definition of equality, and the groundwork of our democracy.

All of us, whether we are elected officials or private citizens, should take inspiration from King's dream - not just today, but everyday of our lives.

That is the way we truly honor his legacy.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to join with you this morning.