

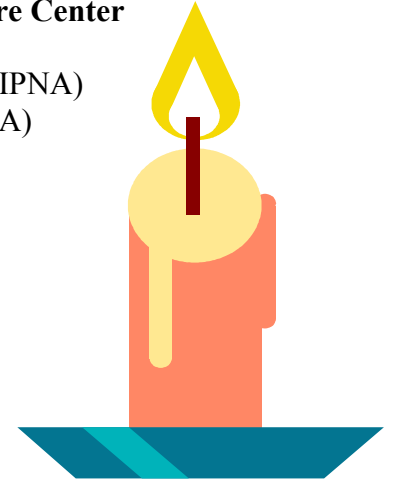
**Candle Light Vigil for Peace and Justice
on the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination to support the
struggle of our striking neighbors – our Brothers and Sisters of 1199 SEIU Health Care
Workers of Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation & Care Center**

Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association (FIPNA)
& Community Organization Strike Alliance (COSA)

PROGRAM, April 4, 2008

1. ASSEMBLE

- a. in front of 3340 Giles Place at Cannon Place
- b. walk single file quietly to Cannon Heights
- c. cross street to join strikers in the pen for rest of program



2. OPENING PRAYER *Read by Rev. James McKinnon, Baptist Savior*

Blessed art thou oh Lord, our God, King of the Universe.

We gather this evening to reflect on the shared values between the neighborhood, religious and labor communities and to lift up the workers who struggle for decent wages, family benefits and respect and dignity in the workplace. We recognize that sometimes we say things differently, but our values are the same.

In the labor community we chant: *We're overworked and underpaid!*

Baba Metzia 111a says: *He who withholds an employee's wages is as though he deprived him of his life.*

James 5:4 says: *Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out.*

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: *When you hire, compensate your workers and treat them fairly.*

3. COMMEMORATION

Read by Karen Argenti

Let us remember why we are here -- to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who died 40 years ago today. In December 1961 at the AFL-CIO Convention, he stated:

"I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream—a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone, but as instruments

of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality.”

Read by Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz

Congressman Jose Serrano reminds us of what we can learn from Dr. King. Congressman Serrano, who presided as Speaker Pro Tempore During Debate on the Measure in the House of Representatives to Vote in of favor of the MLK Jr. Remembrance Resolution, stated:

“Dr. King showed us how to stand up for justice and truth while remaining true to our roots as a democratic people. Forty years after his death, we are still trying to live up to his example, and to implement all his teachings. We have come a long way since he died, but we still have a long way to go. In that path towards justice and equality, we must often stop and question whether we are following in Dr. King’s footsteps. Today provides such an opportunity and we should to take a moment to rededicate ourselves to the ideals and practices that Dr. King taught.”



4. SPONSORING MEMBERS

Read by Karen Argenti

Sponsoring members of the Community Organization Strike Alliance COSA are:

- Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club
- Cannon Heights Housing Coop
- First Step Women’s Support Group (FSWSG)
- Fort Independent Park Neighborhood Association (FIPNA)
- Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Assn Inc. (KHNIA)
- North Bronx Democratic Association
- North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

For more information check www.fipna.org.

I recognize Jamin Sewell and another associate from Council Member Koppell’s office, and Tony Cassino and Saul Steinbach from the North Bronx Democratic Association.

We want to thank our union friends and neighbors for being here with us tonight. We stand with you here and ask you to join us in holding a light while singing peaceful songs.

And now I want to introduce our friend from 1199

Words by Nelson Valdez from 1199

5. CLOSING PRAYER. *Read by Karen Argenti*

God of Exodus, you went to your people in Egypt, saw their pain and set them free—free from the bondage of their oppressor. You walked with them to freedom. Walk with all of us who struggle for dignity in the workplace, for a living wage and for fair benefits. Bless all of us as we continue working to bring forth Your vision—a vision of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy. AMEN

"WE SHALL OVERCOME"

We shall overcome, we shall overcome

We shall overcome some day

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

We shall overcome some day

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand

We'll walk hand in hand some day

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

We'll walk hand in hand some day

We shall be alright, we shall be alright

We shall be alright

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

The Lord will see us some day

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace

We shall live in peace some day

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

We shall live in peace some day

We are not afraid, we are not afraid

We are not afraid today

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

We are not afraid today

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

CHORUS

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
The union is behind us,
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We're fighting for our benefits,
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We're fighting for our children,
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We're building a mighty union,
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Black and white together,
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Young and old together,
We shall not be moved

We want our freedom now

(Clap hands)

**I say na na-na-na na-na-na
na-na-na-na-na-na**

We want our freedom now

Well Martin said do right oh yeah
Treat the people fair oh yeah
We'll keep up the fight oh yeah
Take care of those who care oh yeah

**I say na na-na-na na-na-na
na-na-na-na-na-na**

We want our *health care* now

Well we all need health care oh yeah
It's a worker's right oh yeah
Well we hope a new president oh yeah
Will see the light oh yeah

**I say na na-na-na na-na-na
na-na-na-na-na-na**

We want our *contract* now

Well she must do justice oh yeah
Treat her workers fair oh yeah
That's what the Bible teaches oh yeah
We want our health care share oh yeah

**I say na na-na-na na-na-na
na-na-na-na-na-na**

We want our *health care* now

Congressman José E. Serrano

Representing the Sixteenth District of New York

P R E S S R E L E A S E

House Votes in Favor of MLK Jr. Remembrance Resolution

Serrano Presides as Speaker Pro Tempore During Debate on Measure

Washington, DC – April 1, 2008 – Today, Congressman José E. Serrano presided over the U.S. House of Representatives as the body voted in favor of a resolution in remembrance of the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Serrano said that presiding over the House during the passage of this measure was “a great honor.”

“The resolution we passed today urges all Americans to pause and remember the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, who was murdered 40 years ago today,” Serrano said. “I had the great honor to preside over the House during the debate and vote on this measure. I was deeply moved by the content of that debate, and the content of the resolution. Like many of my colleagues, Dr. King’s example and teachings had a great influence on my life’s work.

“Dr. King showed us how to stand up for justice and truth while remaining true to our roots as a democratic people. Forty years after his death, we are still trying to live up to his example, and to implement all his teachings. We have come a long way since he died, but we still have a long way to go. In that path towards justice and equality, we must often stop and question whether we are following in Dr. King’s footsteps. Today provides such an opportunity and we should to take a moment to rededicate ourselves to the ideals and practices that Dr. King taught.”

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Congressman José E. Serrano has represented the Bronx in Congress since 1990.