

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Relations Office

**DR. WARREN H. STEWART, SR. TO KEYNOTE, SUSAN CASPER TO
EMCEE GLENDALE'S 2011 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
UNITY DAY LUNCHEON**

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Pastor and human rights activist Dr. Warren H.

Stewart, Jr. will offer the keynote address at the city of Glendale's 2011 Unity Day Luncheon held in celebration of the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For the second year, Susan Casper of ABC-15 will emcee the event, which will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Drive.

Each January, Glendale honors Dr. King and his ideals with a luncheon that acknowledges the value of diversity, the progress made toward freedom and equality for all people, and the continued efforts to strengthen communities across the nation. The theme of this year's event is "Embracing Inclusiveness in our Community."

"This is one of the state's premier celebrations of Dr. King's life and the ideals forever associated with his name," said Becky Bennà, chair of the 2011 luncheon. "The planning committee is proud to work on this event and demonstrate Glendale's commitment to creating a society that is more just, peaceful and understanding."

Those goals are represented in the life work of the 2011 keynote speaker.

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Unity Day Luncheon
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Recognized by others as “a soldier of justice and equality,” Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. is presently the senior pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix. His leadership, dating back to the 1980s, is credited with helping make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a recognized holiday in the state of Arizona. Through a group he organized and led, Victory Together, Inc., Stewart campaigned during the 1992 general election for a special day in honor of King and Civil Rights. The measure passed in a historic vote. His continuing contributions to encourage equal rights have resulted in the following accolades:

- “One of the ten people whose achievements had the most notable effect on ... Arizona”
– *Phoenix Gazette*, 1993
- A “Living Legend” – *Arizona Daily Star*, 2002
- Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award – *City of Phoenix*, 2003
- One of the 25 “Leaders and Legends” in the business community – *The Business Journal*, 2005
- Inclusiveness Award Winner – *City of Glendale*, 2006

Stewart’s keynote address will top off a program that includes live entertainment, a chance for the community to come together in celebration, presentation of the Unity Day Youth Art Contest winners and the announcement of the 2011 Promoting Inclusiveness Award winner.

The event planners are accepting nominations for the Inclusiveness Award until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. All members of the public are invited to nominate an individual for the award who has made an impact in Maricopa County. To be selected, nominees should go beyond the scope of their jobs to promote inclusiveness in their actions, and exhibit qualities that are consistent with the ideals advocated by Dr. King.

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Unity Day Luncheon
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Nomination forms are available by logging on to www.glendaleaz.com/unityday or by contacting Joe Hernandez at 623.930.3169.

Reservations are also being accepted for the Unity Luncheon, which attracted overflowing crowds in years past. Organizers expect a full house this year, and urge early registration.

Individual seats for the 2011 Unity Luncheon are \$40 per person. Tables can be reserved at a cost of \$400. Individual and table reservations can be made at the Glendale Visitor Center, 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140, or by calling Lorraine Pino at 623-930-2955.

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