

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)

“I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’ “

A mountain of words could be compiled to describe the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Humanist, civil rights leader, activist, revolutionary, orator, preacher, father, Theologian, and the list goes on. What I admired most about Dr. King was his audacity to act. When there was an evident problem facing society, one that crippled the nation, many people (as history indicates) were opposed to change. Many others didn't have the courage to enact that change. But there comes a time wherein silence is betrayal. Heroes are not superhuman by nature, they are not judged based on their brute strength nor their ability to confound reason, they are heroes because they choose to act, and because they are guided by their moral compass. Sure they make mistakes, to err is human, but their purpose is ingrained into their very souls, and that faith is what allows them the mental and moral fortitude to withstand, and by enduring to progress. A hero is one who preserves his ability to dream even while experiencing a nightmare.



The chr onicl e Staff

We asked our journalist to expound on a single topic.

Topic of the month is;

Legacy



I know who I once was is not who I would like to have in the forethought of people's memories. However, I would like them to remember the about face that I made in life as a man and leader. The greatest legacy I desire for others to remember me by is the ability to consistently overcome the obstacles of life in a positive manner. A man who led by example with compassion and understanding. At the end of life's tunnel I hope to have been able to touch at least one child's life, or someone in a manner which has helped them become a better person. If so I would have completed my service while here on earth. When it is all said and done, someone will stand at the mention of my name, without reservation, and say, "He was a loyal, caring and honest man who made the difference in many people's lives through his hard work and diligence to impact those around him". This I believe is a legacy to strive for and an ambition worthy of living out.

Thomas W. (aka Popeye)



Legacy is a word that carries a heavy connotation. It implies how one wants to be remembered once they are dead. I once heard a man say, "A man with a bad reputation dies in infamy, but a man that dies leaving behind a legacy lives forever." There are a million beautiful adjectives that I could use to describe the legacy that I would like to leave, but that would not fit the framework of my life. I would like my legacy to reflect my journey in life, one that is mired with adversity, perseverance, patience, hard work, dedication, and love. I don't want my loved ones to remember me as a giant or a hero, but I would like for them to remember me as the flawed being that I am. At the end of my days the greatest compliment that could be paid to me is for people to say that I never hesitated in action, that I always gave the best of me, and that I believed in God with my heart, soul, and mind.

Jaa'far A.

(aka Sweet Soft and Chewy Jolly Rancher)



A legacy by definition is, "Money or property bequeathed to another by will or something handed down by an ancestor or predecessor." I think that we have so many things to leave behind that are much more valuable than money. We have so many tiny life lessons to teach those that look to us for direction with life lessons that can greatly impact their lives. I believe that I am the beginning of a legacy, I am starting from scratch. I think a legacy is more than just your family or your household, in short you have to accomplish something more than barely get by. You have to create something that your children will want to carry on, if not then what are you living for, what are you working toward? My legacy starts with me, when my family looks to me for aid or guidance I will make sure they are not looking in vain. It is only right that we leave our families better off than they were when we were born into them.

Joshua S. (aka Waldo)



an what a day it was! We were called out to go to the PEP room early Friday morning, all of our nerves were a bit rattled. We didn't know what to expect. When we arrived, we began to mingle amongst one another and gether for some pictures. The atmosphere in the room was exciting and energetic, you the anticipation in the air. But what really warmed the entire room up was when we set up for the tunnel of love for all of the volunteer executives. Once they started to enter the room it was incredible, the positive energy in the room was multiplied tenfold. We embraced them with love and care, and as the last few executives passed through to fill in the inner circle we heard from Bert Smith and Charles Hearn. Before we split to go to our designated rooms we participated in a 'step to the line exercise' by asking certain questions and if the person can relate on any level than he/she must step to the line and introduce themselves to the person in front of them. That was an amazing exercise because we were all able to see just how similar we are in so many ways. A couple of our PEP brothers were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to everyone and tell us exactly why they came to the PEP program. This was not an easy task for some of them, especially starting at the back of the room and having to dance their way to the front. After they accomplished their task we broke up into our designated areas wherein we had to present our business ideas to the executives. For those of us who were still on the fence regarding our business concepts we were given some tips and advice on productive business models. It was also amazing to hear from the new business executives, they shared the same intensity and focus that we shared. They were in awe of us as we were in awe of them! The respect and admiration was equally reciprocated. On behalf of our Spring 2017 class we appreciate all the hard work from the PEP staff, volunteers, and servant leaders, not only put into this event, but into making PEP a reality.



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could feel



Donald M. (aka Jerome in the house)

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he day of the event, the energy was high! It was a roller coaster of feelings I've never felt before. Taking pictures and listening to music. If I didn't know any better I'd think I was at a family reunion. In a way I guess it was! I could just imagine what the first time executives were thinking. As they came in we formed what we call the "tunnel of love" for executives. This is a way to put them at ease in our surroundings. However, those who never have been here must have had some crazy thoughts going through their mind when they see all these tatted out individuals holler- and screaming. It's amazing what a few kind words and a smile can do to ease someone's stereo- type and barriers! It doesn't always seem normal what we do here but in all actuality it is very normal to greet people with words of encouragement while having some fun. Then there is the blue line which separates us from the executives yet brings us together. As we step to it we are able to make a connection with the individual (executive) standing on the other side who has had a similar life experiences. I then found out that we are not so different after all! We then broke down into one on one sessions with executives to get their ideas about our business plans. Wow, what amazing feedback I received! Their understanding, knowledge and motivation was very insightful and for this I'm grateful. Thank you Bart, Janice, Dani, Carol, and Carl for your encouraging words. To the class of Spring '17, let us all take advantage of the opportunity and show our gratitude in our transformation as men!



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Guillermo A. (aka Pinocchio)



What do I fear?

I fear stagnation and lack of progress.

I fear never reaching my potential and being average.

I fear being forgotten.... The past... Yesterday's news.

I fear giving up and being passed by, going softly into that good night.

I fear letting those I love down, letting myself down.

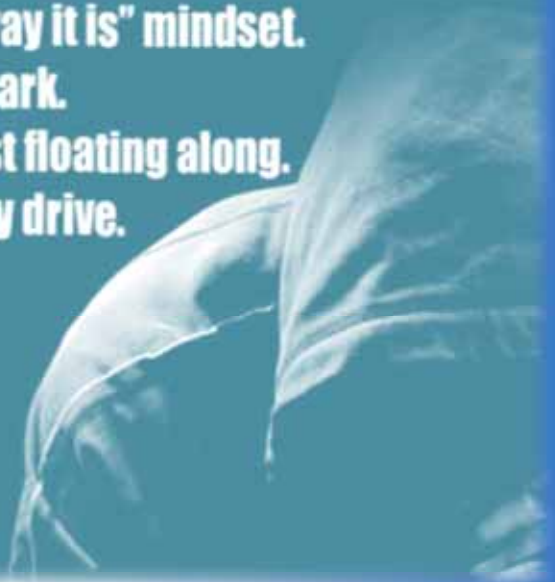
I fear settling, giving in to the "that's just the way it is" mindset.

I fear dying without leaving my mark.

I fear not feeling these fears anymore and just floating along.

These fears feed me, they nourish my drive.

I love my fear.



Thoughts

To

Ponder



Perspectives

This Months Question:

Three words that will define
your legacy?



"Loyal, Faithful, and Loving."

—William H.



"Real, Honest, and Loving."

—Ryan Y.



**"Triumphant, Unique, and
Innovative."**

—Anthony L.



"Development, Leadership, and love."

—Robert B.

Perspectives

This Months Question:

Three words that will define
your legacy?



"Powerful, Strong, and Committed."

—Jonathan R.



"Soared with Eagles."

—Alexius T.



"Tremendous, Loving, and Sensational."

—Jay S.



"Father, Lover, and Friend."

— Jonathan S.

Viewpoints

One day I watched a movie and gained a bit of wisdom from a great man and my hero; “Fear is the path that leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering.” Master Yoda was right! Call it an omen or Gods hand, but I received a postcard from PEP a week after “my epiphany.” Operation “reform my life” just got a major kick off! When I was pulling up to the Cleveland Unit a memory from my life came to mind, of a time when a homeless man gave me a fortune cookie; it read “the first step to making a dream come true is to wake up.” I met that homeless man because I spent most of my youth in shelters or group homes. It wasn’t until prison that I realized I had never woken up. I was simply living in a dream.

Both the caterpillar and the swan are born rather dull and limited compared to their majestic future form they will obtain. Theirs is by Gods design and not by training or skill, it’s not so easy for us to shed our skin or shell and become a totally new person. I assume the popularity of shows like “Flip or Flop” and “Biggest Loser” hold the same appeal. The transformation; People just love the whole “before and after” pictorials, but my guess is that the hard work and determination which may shed blood, sweat and tears are often neglected. I knew the day I decided to join PEP was the same day I admitted to myself that I wanted my own “before and after” story! Just weeks in and I am already experiencing those neglected sacrifices and the hard work that is required to transform. I love it! It’s in these moments that you find your true self!

To be honest when I thought about facing my past and reforming my character I was shaken to my core! I thought I knew what to expect once I got here but the surprises never stopped coming. I have always dreamed of having a family, and now I’m surrounded by hundreds of brothers! At our Spring 17’ Kick Off, I passed through a “Hallway of High-fives”, it almost brought me to tears. The energy and encouragement I saw and felt from the volunteers was an amazing shock. I have to admit I was not expecting it to be that awesome. When I was first asked if I thought this program was a great opportunity, I honestly answered no. Even though I still don’t see this as an opportunity, the perspective of my answer has changed. This is a “calling” for me! Many may want this-but I need this! Months ago I may have had my name picked from some data base that PEP pulls from, but I have been waiting on this my whole life. I’m done with just surviving! I’m done believing that it’s too late to try to live a happy successful life. I have come a long way being the only person who believes in me, and I’m more than excited and curious to see what I’m capable of now that I have hundreds maybe even thousands rooting for me. To all involved and to all who believe on behalf of Spring 17’ and myself thank you!

Brian A.

(aka Gene the Rollie Pollie)



What is a legacy? Is it what you leave behind when you die? Is it an impact on other’s lives, hopes, or faith? Or is it simply a dream? Does it have to be tangible or can it be intangible? So many different views to how someone may see a legacy, and the truth of the matter is it can be a combination of all, not just one.

As for me, a legacy would have to be being remembered by my values, core principles and beliefs. My main focus is how I progressed through life, what type of man I was throughout adversity and calm, and the impact that I was able to create on others through positive influence. I want to be remembered for my strong character, my morals, and values, and how I always continued to grow and progress as a man. I want to be remembered as being worthy of my time here on earth, a man worthy of his sufferings. A man who was made pious, humble and strong by his circumstances. I want my legacy to inspire, motivate and encourage others.

Marcos A.

(aka Sweating bullets)



Legacy is a word that we hear a lot of lately but have a misguided definition on what it actually means. So what is the true definition of this legacy? Webster describes it as a gift by will especially of money or other personal property. In my opinion that is all good for the moment. But leaving a legacy goes so much deeper than leaving someone money. Legacy should be based on morals and values. We can leave our people money but what if they do not have the characteristic to handle the type of money or property we will leave them. We as people should aim to leave a legacy that will guide the next generation into a destiny that was designed for them in the beginning. Most of us never think to leave a good name for the ones behind us. We get so wrapped up in materialistic type things that the value of the material we left them will diminish maybe a couple of years after we die. Leaving a legacy means leaving something that is intangible and yet tangible all at the same time. A legacy leaves a lasting unwashable stain on the hearts of our loved ones that they can go back to time and time again to gain strength and wisdom they need to make it through the hard times. The legacy we leave is not about us it is about the values and morals that will help the future of our descendants and so on and so forth.

Javen P.

(aka Steve Urkel)





Andrew C.



Robert L.



Mike D.



Hector P.



Gabe G.



Jose G.



Juan B.



John C.

Departed



Javaris J.



Pedro C.



Jarmone S.



Robert C.



Daniel R.



Thomas S.



Decortion S.



Courtney G.



Adam S.



Kevin M.



Antoine J.



Justin S.



Paul H.

Now you have the chance to make the choice to put into practice all you have earned, learned and grew into through this time of separation. A time to start anew, to walk in the words you wrote and spoke through the years and months. All the guidance and direction has come to a pinnacle and the only asset needed now is application. Freedom isn't free and a penance has been paid with a cost that not only you all have suffered but those in your life. Set your priorities straight, step away from anything and everything that isn't going to impact your life in a productive manner; all the while standing as a leader into the greatness you were predestine for. What is going to be your legacy? Farewell fellas!

Thomas W.

Final Thoughts

In every edition of the Chronicle we sit down to set out a plan on achieving the final product. We establish a theme and topic to try to illustrate both in words and in graphics. A lot of times we will use the seasons, what is going on in the current class, or even topics discussed in men's life. This month's theme was appropriate for the change of the year; out with the old and in with the new. In doing this I had to question myself with doing away with who I once was, to who am I becoming and what do I want to be my legacy. What do I really want to be remembered by or for? What seeds can I plant that will have a positive effect on others' lives and how do I go about doing it. There comes a time in a person's life when introspection occurs. They see what they have done in life doesn't really reflect how they want to be remembered.

These seeds (legacies) left behind will speak for generations and in some cases for centuries. Look at some of the greats who have stood the test of time; Jesus, Mohammad, Gandhi, M.L.K., Franklin, Ford, Jobs, Patterson. All these individuals left a legacy without even really trying because they walked to the beat of a different drum, a higher consciousness and life wasn't about them but what they could do for others either spiritually, politically or socially.

These are legacies worth being remembered for. Just a general kindness shown to the next man, child, or community. Even if it is as simple as having a field named after you. See, there was this individual I never met but only heard about while growing up. He was a hard man from my understanding, a man's man is probably the best way to describe him. He served the nation in WWII and then came back to raise a family and work like most returning from war did then. Was it an easy transition for him? Not from what I was informed! Yet, he adjusted and left a legacy I find worthy to try and live up to from this point and time in life. His simple devotion, was to the kids in the community by bringing the Little League Association of America to Pasadena, Texas in the 1950's. In-directly, since then, Blan G. Patterson has helped many individuals through sports with leadership, character development and team building skills. Sometime in the 1970's his name was placed on a field and it still remains there to this day. It's not a lot but I can only imagine the number of kids Mr. Patterson affected in a positive aspect.

Now that's a legacy I would love to be remembered by. See, Mr. Patterson was my mother's father, my grandfather. I never met the man, he passed away before my birth ironically watching his oldest son play football. No, he wasn't V. Lombardi or Bum Phillips but I honestly can see where he had an indirect affect in a positive manner in many people's lives. This is a simple mark or fingerprint left by him but I wonder how many kids this positive endowment had on others? The ripple effect has grown exponentially since little league ball has come to the area with not only the L.L.A.A. but with Pony, Colt, American Legion, as with girls softball associations having implanted themselves in the community.

This movement has been going strong for over six decades now. I don't have a specific number but if I was a betting man, I would guess my Grandfather has had an impact on tens of thousands of lives; weather if it was from the kids playing and learning, or growing up and coaching the next generation. A seed was planted that has furthered many individuals life either physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Wow, now that's a legacy!

--Thomas W. (aka Popeye)





prison entrepreneurship

prison entrepreneurship program

