

In honor of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez issued the following statement:

'As Rev. King said in his last speech 'only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.' Rev. King was one of the brightest stars in a dark time that forever changed our nation for the better. His convictions and clarity of vision lighted the way in a time when many Americans felt lost and confused. He recalled us to the principles that made our nation a beacon of freedom for over two centuries. Rev. King saw those who the light of freedom did not fall on. With unflinching honesty, he served as a prophet of justice and fairness and woke a slumbering nation's conscience.

While he foresaw that he would not reach the mountaintop with us, our nation misses him. Yet as each year passes, we see the realization of his dream that children of all colors and creeds would attend the same schools and live in the same neighborhoods. With Old Testament fervor and New Testament compassion, he taught us that we are all brothers and sisters and that injustice to one is injustice to all.

A hero throughout the world, Rev. King inspired us to heed the better angels of our natures and extend the freedoms promised by the founders to all Americans. He understood that as long as some Americans were not free then none of us were. He also knew that freedom must be guarded and we must be vigilant against any erosion of the rights many laid down their lives for. Our government and nation must not allow injustice to exist in whatever guise it may wear. And, that is how we can truly honor Rev. King.'

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez is a four term Democrat from San Antonio and Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Civil Rights Task Force.