



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
1929-1968

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
**TASK FORCE, INC.**  
**Faira Glenn, President**

P.O. Box 3189  
Southfield, Michigan 48037  
Contacts: Faira Glenn (248) 470-0339;  
Barbara Talley at (248) 330-7576  
[www.mlktaskforcemi.org](http://www.mlktaskforcemi.org)

## Press Release:

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.**

**Mourns the Loss of Retired General Colin Powell**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 19, 2021-----

-----The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is deeply saddened by the enormous loss of Retired General Colin Powell, the first African American Secretary of State, the first African American National Security Advisor and the first African American Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Powell rose to the rank of four-star general. He was an American politician, diplomat, and statesman.

“General Colin Powell will be forever remembered for his outstanding military service to our country and his sense of integrity and putting our country before self,” according to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. President Faira Glenn. “Not only did General

Powell advise Presidents, he also helped shape our nation's policies," she added.

He served as the 16th United States National Security Advisor from 1987 to 1989 and as the 12th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1989 to 1993 and served as the 65<sup>th</sup> United States Secretary of State from 2001 to 2005.

General Powell was born in New York City in 1937 and was raised in the South Bronx. His parents, Luther and Maud Powell, immigrated to the United States from Jamaica. He was educated in the New York City public schools, graduating from the City College of New York, where he earned a bachelor's degree in geology. He also participated in ROTC at City College and received a commission as an Army second lieutenant upon graduation in June 1958. He was a professional soldier for 35 years, during which time he held many command and staff positions and rose to the rank of four-star general. He was Commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command in 1989.

General Powell's last assignment, as the 12th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the highest military position in the Department of Defense. During this time, he oversaw 28 crises, including the invasion of Panama in 1989 and Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf War against Iraq in 1990-1991. He formulated the Powell Doctrine which limits American military action unless it satisfies criteria regarding American national security interests, overwhelming force, and widespread public support.

In 1995, Powell wrote his autobiography, *My American Journey*, and then in retirement another book, *It Worked for Me, Lessons in Life and Leadership*. He pursued a career as a public speaker, addressing audiences across the country and abroad. Prior to his appointment as Secretary of State, Powell was the chairman of America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing people from every sector of American

life to build the character and competence of young people. He won numerous U.S. and foreign military awards and decorations. His civilian awards included the Presidential Medal of Freedom (twice), the Congressional Gold Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Secretary of State Distinguished Service Medal, and the Secretary of Energy Distinguished Service Medal. Several schools and other institutions were named in his honor, and he held honorary degrees from universities and colleges across the country.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is an all-volunteer grassroots civic organization. Its purpose is to communicate to others in the local community the importance of celebrating the National Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. was established in 1985 and is comprised of local residents, private and public organizations and local government representatives. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. The first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk was in Southfield, Michigan on January 20, 1986, thus commemorating the first observance of the national holiday for Dr. King. Our Founding member was former Councilwoman, Barbara Talley, and numerous Southfield residents were charter members. "General Colin Powell has a long legacy of firsts in our nation. He was a pioneer who continued to rise in the ranks, as a four star general, the first African American to serve as Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Security Advisor and Secretary of State. We are grateful for his time as a public servant," she said.

#####