

Happy Birthday

By Stevie Wonder
Continued

Why has there never been a holiday
Where peace is celebrated
All throughout the world

The time is overdue
For people like me and you
Who know the way to truth
Is love and unity to all God's children

It should be a great event
And the whole day should be spent
In full remembranceOf those who lived and
died for the oneness of all people

So let us all begin
We know that love can win
Let it out, don't hold it in
Sing it loud as you can

(Chorus)

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday x4

Ooh yeah
Happy birthday X4

We know the key to unity of all people
Is in the dream that you had so long ago
That lives in all of the hearts of people
That believe in unity

We'll make the dream become a reality
I know we will
Because our hearts tell us so

(Chorus)

Happy birthday to you x8

Awards

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award

This is an annual award presented by the University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee. The award is given to an undergraduate student who embodies values close to the civil rights leader's heart.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Vision Award

This annual award honors individuals or groups who exemplify Dr. King's teachings and spirit. The selection committee for this award considers nominees whose scholarship, community engagement, leadership, or service to others has advanced one or more of the principles that Dr. King embodied: social justice, advocacy, equality, human rights, the promotion of faith, and freedom of all people.

Philip H. and Susan S. Bartels Advocacy, Leadership, and Service Award

This award was created to be the highest honor the University of New Haven presents to an individual or organization for their efforts promoting and cultivating diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, either on campus or in the greater community.

Acknowledgments

2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee

Barbara J. Lawrence (co-chair) | Jade Roman (co-chair)

Ric Baker	Michael Karski
Toby Byrd	Jurea McIntosh
Linda Copney-Okeke	Kenneth Notarino-Jeffrey
Danielle Cooper	Timothy Prince
Dave Cranshaw	Shelia Smith
Emily Guido	Caitlin Truesdale

Special Thanks

Philip H. and Susan S. Bartels
Jason L. DeGroff, M.A., Distinguished Lecturer & Director of Bands
Chargers Marching Band Members

2025

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CELEBRATION

The Power of Service



MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

BUCKNALL THEATER, DODDS HALL

University of New Haven

Order of Program

Welcome	Barbara J. Lawrence, J.D., MPA <i>Vice President of Institutional Equity and Diversity</i>
Opening Remarks	Jens Frederiksen, Ph.D. <i>President</i>
Invocation	Martin O'Connor '76, M. Div, J.D., <i>University Campus Ministry</i> <i>Associate Professor, Fire Science</i>
Musical Selection	Members of the Chargers Marching Band
Award Presentations	Shelia Smith <i>Executive Director of DEI Strategic Initiatives</i>
Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship <i>Scholarship Award Recipient</i>	Sheraud Wilder '26
Martin Luther King, Jr. Vision Awards <i>Faculty Recipient</i>	Wayne Edwards
<i>Student Recipients</i>	Krupa Ann Mathew '25 MPH Jordan Paulin '26
Philip H. and Susan S. Bartels Advocacy, Leadership, & Service Award <i>Award Recipient</i>	Alvin Tran, Ph.D.
Keynote Speaker	Toni Harp '13 Hon., Chair, Impact CT <i>Former Connecticut State Senator and Mayor of New Haven</i>
Question & Answer Session	William H. Carbone, MPA, <i>Senior Executive Director, Tow Youth Institute; Distinguished Lecturer, Criminal</i>
Closing Remarks	Barbara Lawrence, J.D. MPA
Musical Selection	Members of the Chargers Marching Band

The Power of Service

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a towering figure in the history of social justice, civil rights, and advocacy for equality. Central to his legacy is his unwavering belief in the power of service as a means to create lasting change. Dr. King believed that serving others was a calling and a way to create a better world. He said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" He also said, "Anyone can be great, because anybody can serve."

Dr. King's philosophy of service was rooted in the principles of love, compassion, and uplifting the community, which he believed could dismantle systemic injustice and bring people together to forge a better world. His life's work exemplifies how service, when driven by a moral commitment to others, can become a transformative force that transcends generations.

Keynote Speaker

Toni Harp '13 Hon., Chair, Impact CT

Former Connecticut State Senator and Mayor of New Haven



Toni Harp's enduring respect for working people and her tireless advocacy for issues important to all citizens has been unwavering. For 21 years she served as Connecticut State Senator for the 10th District and earned a reputation as "the conscience of the Senate" at the Connecticut State Capitol.

For 11 years, Toni was co-chair of the legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee, deftly balancing fiscal prudence with state government's many financial obligations. In 2014, Toni became the first woman to be Mayor of New Haven and went on to serve three two-year terms. Throughout her distinguished career, Toni's policy priorities never changed: full access to affordable healthcare, regardless of ethnic, cultural, or economic differences; a responsive and effective public safety network working hand-in-hand with an equitable criminal justice system; and, maximizing opportunities for each individual student through public education and economic development so residents can enjoy the rewards and responsibilities of productive engagement.

As Mayor, Toni made public safety a priority and never wavered in her commitment to community-based policing, through which crime prevention has equal weight with law enforcement, and the police department works with and among those it protects and serves. This approach, complemented with judicious deployment of cutting-edge technology, contributed to declining crime rates across-the-board each year throughout her tenure. In public education, Toni championed 'School Change 2.0' in New Haven Public Schools, where Restorative Practices were also engaged in disciplinary matters. The result was increased enrollment districtwide, increase high school graduation rates, higher college enrollment and retention rates, decreased absenteeism system-wide, and dramatically reduced expulsion rates. Toni Harp was the first woman president of the African American Mayors Association.

Happy Birthday

By Stevie Wonder

You know it doesn't make much sense
There ought to be a law against
Anyone who takes offense
At a day in your celebration 'cause we all
know in our minds

That there ought to be a time
That we can set aside
To show just how much we love you
And I'm sure you would agree
What could fit more perfectly
Than to have a world party on the
day you came to be

(Chorus)

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday

I just never understood
How a man who died for good
Could not have a day that would
Be set aside for his recognition

Because it should never be
Just because some cannot see
The dream as clear as he
That they should make it become an illusion

And we all know everything
That he stood for time will bring
For in peace, our hearts will sing
Thanks to Martin Luther King

(Chorus)

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to you x2

Happy birthday

Continued on back