

MLK Day
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It took more than 15 years after his death for supporters of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to convince Congress to pass a bill making a federal holiday in his honor.

On April 4, 1968, King was shot and killed on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., where he had come to lead a protest of low wages and bad working conditions for sanitation workers.

Four days later, U.S. Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan) became the first person to push for a holiday in King's honor when he introduced a congressional bill to make a national holiday of King's birthday, Jan. 15. Conyers would reintroduce the same bill each year for a decade.

The bill first came to a vote in the House of Representatives in 1979, but hit trouble when several Republican congressmen argued that adding another paid day off for federal employees was too expensive, and that "the establishment of a public holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to our country's longstanding tradition." Rep. Gene Taylor (R-Missouri) said in opposition, "I do not believe our present economic situation will allow us the luxury of another \$212 million Federal holiday." The bill came up five votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for passage.

After the vote, campaigners for the holiday started looking to the general public for support. A petition with six million names was submitted to Congress, and public pressure began to mount. In 1980, Stevie Wonder released a song for the campaign called "Happy Birthday."

Along with Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-New York), Conyers continued to submit the bill during each following legislative session. Public pressure grew stronger in 1982 and 1983 with civil rights marches on Washington, D.C.

Finally, in 1983, Congress passed a slightly altered proposal by Rep. Katie Hall (D-Indiana) to honor King with a holiday. The bill went through Congress convincingly: The vote was

338 to 90 in the House of Representatives, and 78 to 22 in the Senate. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law in the same year. The holiday was moved from the proposed date of Jan. 15-King's birthday-to the third Monday in January, which served as a compromise for those who objected that the holiday would be too close to Christmas and New Year's.

The day was first observed as a federal holiday on Jan. 20, 1986. (It was first observed on a state level in 1973, by Illinois.)

Still, even with federal recognition, the new holiday faced a long struggle for acceptance from the entire country. Some state governments resisted following the federal lead of giving state employees the day off by combining it with other holidays, or giving the day alternate names.

Arizona Governor Evan Mecham rescinded the holiday as his first official act in 1987, saying the previous governor did not have the authority to declare state holidays. The day was still recognized as a holiday in Arizona, but state workers could not receive compensation for the day. This triggered a boycott of the state, culminating in 1990 with the NFL moving the site of the 1993 Super Bowl (planned for Phoenix, Ariz.) to Pasadena, Calif. In 1992, a citizen's vote brought back the holiday, and in 1996 the Super Bowl was held in Tempe, Ariz.

Several southern states combined the new federal holiday with transparent symbolism. In Mississippi, the holiday is still shared with a celebration of Civil War general Robert E. Lee's birthday.

For years, state employees in South Carolina were allowed to choose between Martin Luther King Day or one of three different Confederate holidays. In 2000, the state made Martin Luther King Day an official holiday, making it the last state to give all state employees the paid day off.

Malibu High
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Finally, the district's legal counsel for the environmental issues in Malibu, Pillsbury Winthrop Pittman and Shaw LLP, is being paid a blended rate that ranges from \$270 to \$695 an hour.

Concerns about contamination on campus arose in October when a group of Malibu High School teachers, including three that were diagnosed with thyroid cancer, sent a letter to the district questioning the safety of the campus.

Tests revealed that caulk and dust in several of the rooms contained high levels of PCBs, a cancer-causing contaminant. The levels were high enough to trigger oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Tests showed that the air was safe for students, according to EPA officials.

Right before students went on winter break, the district announced that it would test the rooms, then clean them and test again.

Results from the pre-cleaning tests were within EPA's standards, Lyon said in a release last week.

Some parents questioned those results because some of the rooms were tested with the windows open. Because teachers sometimes teach with the windows open, Lyon said earlier this month it was prudent to test some rooms with windows up.

Cleaning went smoothly, Lyon said, and some teachers returned to classrooms that had been shuttered.

There has been no word on results from the second round of testing that were supposed to be returned on Tuesday.

Allen said that from what he's heard, there is nothing new in the data.

Last week, the Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) claimed that 12 teachers refused to return to

classrooms, citing a hurried clean-up effort at the school. PEER did not say who those teachers are.

PEER called for a comprehensive testing plan for contaminants other than PCBs. They also called for soil testing. Environ will help oversee more air and soil testing, school officials said in board meeting documents.

"The engineering firm will develop investigation plans under the oversight of, and in collaboration with, the EPA and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control," officials said.

The EPA has been silent on the contamination issue this month. An EPA official tested some of the rooms tested by the district to ensure quality control.

A portion of this story originally appeared in the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Who is PEER and why are they involved?

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility was created as an advocacy group in 1996 to focus on cases where government or public employees have environmental concerns with their workplace or employer, said Paula Dinerstein, a senior attorney for PEER.

"We regularly represent people all over the country, we do what we can to help in terms of employing our expertise, our media, our advocacy and litigation if necessary," Dinerstein said Tuesday.

This is the first school site case PEER has worked on, Dinerstein said. The nonprofit has represented employees in other government cases such as concerns over indoor air quality during the ongoing renovation of the Dept. of Interior building in D.C.

The identities of Malibu High teachers represented by PEER

remain unknown. Harry Keiley, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu teachers union, did not return requests for comment on PEER's involvement with teachers on the case.

Dinerstein said PEER was first approached about the Malibu High School case after Hugh Kaufman, a senior EPA policy analyst whom The New York Times has called "a kind of living legend in the world of federal whistleblowers," put a group of Malibu High teachers in touch with the Washington office. Kaufman also confirmed this on Tuesday.

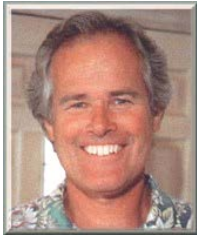
"I felt the teachers needed some help and protection," said Kaufman, who has been following the Malibu High environmental situation since it was made public in October.

Kaufman said he and PEER have worked together on several cases,

including a case surrounding the BP oil spill in Louisiana and an ongoing whistleblower case Kaufman filed against the EPA over the federal agency's decision to eliminate the ombudsman department. Kaufman was the former head of the ombudsman department where he helped investigate potential EPA cover-ups at New York's Ground Zero until the department was eliminated in 2002.

On Tuesday, Malibu High parent Cassandra Wiseman also said she played a role in getting PEER involved following Kaufman's suggestion. She wanted teachers to approach an advocacy group before they considered hiring legal representation.

"I practically begged the teachers to go to PEER after all the other litigation attorneys began swirling around [when the story first broke]," Wiseman said.



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- # 66: ON THE CREEK-Modern, re-built 2+1, hi ceilings w/skylights, recessed lighting, dbl-paned windows, bamboo floors, travertine tiles bthrm, granite kitchen counters, stone fireplace. Sliders from bdrms to large deck under trees. 2-car pkng. \$ 549,000
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PARADISE COVE - SOLD 2013

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#146	\$1,200,000	#236	\$765,000	#1	\$460,000	#52	\$275,000
#106	\$950,000	#102	\$725,000	#32	\$455,000	#53	\$240,000
#158	\$855,000	#59	\$520,000	#192	\$445,000	#21	\$235,000
#265	\$850,000	#88	\$500,000	#177	\$375,000		

POINT DUME CLUB MANUFACTURED HOMES - Malibu

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- #191: MUST SEE! Whitewater ocean and mountain views from this 2 bedroom + 2 bath home in move-in condition. Bamboo and travertine, French doors to deck. Master with spa tub. Fully landscaped, big yard. \$ 695,000
- #242: UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS-Ocn, sunset & mtn vus. Customized 2+2.5, apx 1,850 sf, w flrs. Bonus sun rms & ofc area. Open ktchn, stone & tile bths w/spa tubs, steam shower, sauna. 2 vu patios, pvt back patio to grassy common area. \$ 983,000

POINT DUME CLUB - SOLD 2013

#150	\$1,170,000	#233	\$395,000	#45	\$310,000
#147	\$1,140,000	#71	\$350,000	#7	\$275,000
#170	\$650,000	#46	\$332,500	#106	\$200,000
#62	\$582,500	#281	\$315,000	#176	\$190,000

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#147	\$300,000	#102	\$260,000	#202	\$190,000	#25	\$153,000
#128	\$298,000	#142	\$252,000	#187	\$180,000	#111	\$130,000



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