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ALA American Library Association

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services

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NEWS

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Randall Robinson to speak at commemorative service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 15, 2001, during American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Randall Robinson will be the keynote speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sunrise celebration during the American Library Association's (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C. The celebration will be held on Monday, January 15, 2001, from 6:30 – 7:30a.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Ballroom C.

Sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) and the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), the sunrise celebration will honor the work and life of Dr. King. Participants will include representatives of associations of librarians of color, and several ALA committees, round tables and assemblies.

Mr. Robinson, who is an internationally respected human rights advocate, is widely recognized for his leadership of the Free South Africa Movement, which successfully

pushed for the imposition of comprehensive economic sanctions to end apartheid in South Africa. His 27-day hunger strike protested the U.S. policies toward the treatment of Haitian boat people, and resulted in the Clinton administration modifying their treatment of the issue.

A Harvard-trained lawyer, Mr. Robinson is author of the national best-sellers *The Debt - What America Owes to Blacks*, and *Defending the Spirit - A Black Life in America*. He is president of TransAfrica and TransAfrica Forum. TransAfrica was established to promote enlightened U.S. policies towards Africa and the Caribbean. TransAfrica Forum was established to educate the American public about Africa, the Caribbean and U.S. policies towards the African diaspora.

Light refreshments will be served during the celebration.

For more information, contact the OLOS Communications Officer, Beatrice Calvin at bcalvin@ala.org or via phone at 800/545-2433, ext. 4280.