

Coretta Scott King - II

Lead: In the years before and after the assassination of her husband, Coretta Scott King provided strong leadership within the civil rights movement.

Intro: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: It was not easy residing at the center of the maelstrom, raising a large family, taking a supportive role at the side of one of humanity's most consequential figures, but, nevertheless, Coretta King rose to take the role of leader. She escaped and

stood strong when white supremacists directed violence against their family. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, she was by his side.

As King expanded his message from discrimination to economic fairness, Coretta began to find her own place as an international speaker and leader in their joint crusade for peace and justice. Then came the terrible news of her husband's assassination in April, 1968, and Mrs. King focused her grief on the completion of his task and realization of his dream.

She was a founder of the King Center in Atlanta which is part of a 23-acre national historic site which

includes King's tomb, his birthplace, and the Library and Archives which maintains a huge collection of papers from the Civil Rights epoch. Mrs. King led in the establishment of a national holiday in her husband's memory.

Coretta Scott King died in 2006 at the age of 78, like her husband having lived a life of inspiration and encouragement to persons of all races, genders and ages.

At the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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King, Coretta Scott. *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York, NY: Puffin, 1969.

McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino. *Coretta Scott King.* New York, NY: Twenty-First Century Books, 2007.

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