

# Celebrating King's legacy



Cayla Nimmo/For the Independent

Kinya Aa Anni Ame holds a sign with a photo of Martin Luther King Jr. before the march in Gallup Monday for the holiday honoring King.

## Locals share memories of MLK, civil rights era

By Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola  
Independent correspondent

GALLUP — The legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated by powerful speeches from a number of speakers during Gallup's annual tribute to King Monday.

"He was one of my greatest teachers, and his influence on my life became a part of my personal sacred story that I live out to this day," Gallup resident Laura Jijon told the crowd at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center.

Jijon, the director of the Adult Education Program at the University of New Mexico-Gallup North Campus, and Steve Rogers, a retired Gallup teacher, shared their personal stories of King's influence. Mona Frazier, one of the longtime organizers of the MLK Day event, and the Rev. Fredrick Davis, pastor of Gallup's St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, shared memories of growing up in the segregated South as well as King's legacy today.

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Marley Shebala/Independent

Miss Indian Cermonial Zunneh-bah Martin shared the Maori greeting of touching foreheads and noses, which she learned from her summer student internship in New Zealand, during a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Arizona, Monday.

## MLK's fight included Native rights

By Marley Shebala  
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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — An annual celebration of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that highlighted indigenous rights also focused on King's legacy of non-violence and love Monday.

Sunshine Martin, spokeswoman for the annual gathering at the Quality Inn

and Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park, which is sponsored by the Martin family of Tohlokai, said the civil rights that King fought for are also indigenous rights and they are all under attack by the administration of President Donald Trump.

Martin urged the 30 or so participants of all ages to educate themselves

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Tooley Brown from Veterans Helping Veterans leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the Martin Luther King Day program at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center Monday in Gallup.