

Name: Vanessa Spruill
Grade: 8
School: Kelly Middle School
2nd Congressional District

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr fought for everyone to be treated equally. It means that as a young black girl I can be treated equally and not be discriminated against for my race. This also means I will not get split up from my friends because of the color of my skin, growing up as Polynesian and black. In the past, I was told my long wavy beautiful hair was a wig growing up. I was called the black Rapunzel while they told me to let down my hair. This was an example of me getting discriminated against for the way that I look.

Just as Martin Luther King preached for kindness, peace and no violence, I would like to be a social worker so I could spread peace and kindness just as Martin Luther King preached for. My goal is to work in a middle school setting because I know how much of a change that I can make for kids my age. When I came into middle school I didn't have the same mindset I have now. The support service at my school helped me throughout my whole 3 years here. Those teachers inspired me to what I want to do in the future. While I'm studying social work in college I would participate in sports such as college cheer, track and volleyball. I have been doing cheer since I was 5 and recently started volleyball and track in 2022. Cheer has helped me grow in so many ways. I have been captain my majority of my sports career, just as Martin Luther King Jr. I can show leadership and take charge when I know my team is in help. Cheer has taught me leadership, confidence, and perseverance.

Dr. Martin Luther Jr was a hero and an independent role model to me. He inspired me to be more independent with myself, work harder for my accomplishments and never give up on working hard even when people are dragging me down. Dr. Martin Luther King went through many different challenges while fighting for freedom. Though he was getting hatred and discriminated while standing up for what he believed in, that did not stop him fighting for our people.