Name: Venice Montanaro

Grade: 12

School: Joseph A. Foran High School

3rd Congressional District

The world may change, but the fight against injustice remains. Martin Luther King Jr, an activist and minister, spoke out against the racial injustices battling Americans of color. His famous speech was expressed at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, titled "I have a dream." King talked about 1963 not as an end, but a beginning to change the world. A quote from King that stands out to me is "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?" King always strived to help and advocate for others, and that can be shown through the steps the country has taken towards equality. The Civil Rights Act, The Black Lives Matter Movement, and the Newfound Equality Act (LBTQ) are just a few examples of steps of equality shown in our community. King's advocacy for minority groups has taught me to look out for people in my community.

In 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. said, "It's all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is a cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps." King's work with the Poor People's Campaign motivates me to help out misfortune populations. I aspire to major in sociology, to learn about different social relationships, culture, and societal relationships. This major will allow me to really examine social injustices in our society, to see the root of the issue, and find a way to move forward. Martin Luther King Jr. was an incredible man, one who worked hard to fight towards equality. He stood up for what he believed in, and always advocated for the underrepresented populations. After getting my bachelors, I want to go to law school, with a focus in family law. In our society, over 4000 women are killed every year due to domestic violence. Two weeks ago, my friend's mother was murdered in a domestic violence situation. The entire situation was disheartening, and inspired a seed of anger within many, as our community mourned the loss of this mother of 3. This horrible incident of injustice has encouraged my passion to advocate for domestic violence victims, as well as underrepresented populations in relationships on a family level. Although it is not as monumental as Martin Luther King's work advocating for the equality of different races, I want to make a difference in the lives of underrepresented groups. Martin Luther King's work has inspired me to make a difference, and in the next chapter of my life, I am excited to pursue it.