

### **Writing Activities using the African American Calendar**

#### **5-5.2 (Civil Rights Movement--February theme)**

Read and/or listen to Martin Luther King's "I have a dream speech" and rewrite it using your own words.

#### **5-5.1 and 2 (Cultural and Economic developments and Civil Rights Movement--February theme)**

Make a book about one of the calendar honorees. The book would have a cover page that includes a title and the author (the student writing the book), and a table of contents. The book would have at least one page on each of these topics:

- 1) Biographical information (birth date, place of birth, schools attended, and family information) and a picture
- 2) Jobs or life work
- 3) Civic contributions
- 4) Accomplishments/honors
- 5) Any other important information or other pictures/illustrations.

Put the completed books in independent reading baskets, give them to the school library, or have students read them to students in lower grades.

#### **5-5.1 and 2 (Cultural and Economic developments and Civil Rights Movement--February theme)**

Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper or a letter to an elected official as if it were written by any of the honorees, describing a problem he or she tackled and requesting help with that problem --based on issues that the honoree addressed in his/her lifetime.

#### **5-5.1 and 2 (Cultural and Economic developments and Civil Rights Movement --February and March themes)**

Use Beatrice McKnight's book on Southern Women and other resources to develop a report on a famous African American woman. These reports can be summarized by the students in a 3-4 sentence paragraph and read on school morning announcements in March and/or put in the school newsletter.

#### **5-4.1 (Great Depression--February theme)**

Write a journal entry as if you are a young African American boy, like Jasper Salmond, trying to earn money to help your family during the Great Depression.

#### **Standards 5-4 and 5-5 and 5-6 (Great Depression, WWII and life in 20<sup>th</sup> century--February theme)**

Write a friendly letter describing how your life today compares to the life of any of the honorees when they were your age. Include modes of transportation and communication, forms of entertainment, clothing, music, technology and the kinds of jobs students your age would aspire to.

**SS Literacy Skill--Demonstrate responsible citizenship within local and national communities.  
(February theme)**

Donella Brown Wilson belongs to the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Jasper Salmond belongs to the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. What kinds of civic contributions do these organizations provide for our communities? Have students research one of these Greek societies and/or interview a current member.