

Monday, January 18, 2011

Santa Fe, NM – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District released the following statement today in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

“As we remember those who have been through the tragic events in Arizona – the six people who lost their lives, those who were injured, including my friend Gabby Giffords, and the friends and family in need of comfort during this difficult time, let us remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: ‘Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.’

“As we as a nation come together to heal from this tragedy, let us recognize that only by working together can we move forward and make this nation worthy of our dreams and aspirations. While we see anger and unrest all over the globe – we also see the will from many to do what’s right – the courage to stand up to injustice and make a difference.

“In honoring Dr. King, we remember a man who was spurred to action by the injustice he witnessed, by the injustice he experienced. Leading by example he called us to stand up to injustice and by doing so inspired a nation. In his final speech Dr. King said, ‘Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be.’

“While those words were spoken so powerfully more than 40 years ago, their message rings true today. In the wake of the Arizona tragedy, let us recommit ourselves to achieving the fulfillment of Dr. King’s message. Let us continue to strive to make America what it ought to be. To honor his message we must consider our words as well as our deeds. We must seek to lift up all Americans and our world through what we say and what we do.

“We must seek to create a stronger society, a more just society because of the truth that lies in Dr. King’s words, the bedrock truth that we are better when we look out for one another. There are people throughout history like Dr. King who turn their lives over to service and who are

known the world over for their incredible contributions. But even actions that may seem small to some, can make the difference in another's life. Let us use today as a reminder to be the exemplar of compassion and kindness in our communities.

“Let us recognize a leader who reminds us to be of service where there is need, a leader whose contributions are felt each day by every American. May we reflect on his words and example and may we all be better for it.”

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