

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUTHORS NIGHT WITH DR. WARREN H. STEWART, SR. EXPLORES HISTORY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY IN ARIZONA
Senior Pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix will present "Victory Together for Martin Luther King, Jr." in downtown Phoenix

Phoenix, AZ – Arizona Humanities welcomes the renowned Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. on Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 6:00-8:00p.m. at Arizona Humanities (1242 N. Central Avenue - Phoenix, AZ 85004). The public is invited to attend this free event with refreshment included. Seating is limited and guests are encouraged to RSVP at www.azhumanities.org or by calling 602-257-0335.

Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. is the Senior Pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix, Arizona. Guests will hear the challenging yet triumphant story of how the Arizonan African-American community came together in the 1980s to work towards recognition of the famous civil rights leader. Dr. Stewart served as the first General Chairperson for *Arizonans for a Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday* which contributed significantly to the legislative passage of Arizona's Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on September 21, 1989. Dr. Stewart also organized and led Victory Together, Inc., a broad-based coalition that campaigned for a Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day in Arizona which was won by a historic vote of the people in the general election on November 3, 1992. Join Arizona Humanities for an interactive discussion and Q&A with Dr. Stewart about this historic achievement and learn how we can engage our communities today.

About Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.: Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., is a native of Coffeyville, Kansas where he was reared in a Christian family and African-American Church environment. He is presently the Senior Pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix, Arizona and has served there since July 1, 1977. Dr. Stewart earned many academic achievements including a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Philosophy, graduating *Summa Cum Laude* from Bishop College, Dallas, Texas and a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Dr. Stewart is also the recipient of numerous awards and commendations from churches, colleges, civic and community organizations, locally, statewide and nationally. He was recognized by *The Arizona Republic* newspaper as one of the ten most influential religious leaders in the Valley (Phoenix). Dr. Stewart was inducted into the 30th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. College of Ministers & Laity—Board of Preachers, and had his oil painting portrait unveiled and hung in the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel, Atlanta, GA, on April 9, 2015. Dr. Stewart and FIBC received the 2015 President's Volunteer Service Award. Dr. Stewart is the author of several books, including *VICTORY TOGETHER FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: The Story of Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., Governor Evan Mecham and the Historic Battle for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in Arizona*, as well as has published articles and sermons in several major publications. He has also served as Adjunct Professor of Ottawa University-Phoenix Campus, Phoenix Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry Program at Fuller Theological Seminary, as well as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, California.

About Arizona Humanities
<http://www.azhumanities.org>

Arizona Humanities is an independent non-profit organization and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Arizona Humanities supports public programming in the humanities that promotes understanding of human thoughts, actions, creations, and values. Since its foundation in 1973, nearly \$11 million has been provided to cultural and educational institutions throughout Arizona.

Mission: Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.