



Illinois Commission on Diversity & Human Relations

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Dinners

Year	Speaker	Title/Organization
1973	Richard Hatcher	First Black Mayor, City of Gary
1974	Jesse Jackson	President, Operation PUSH
1975	Julian Bond	First Black candidate for U.S. President, & Former Chair of the NAACP
1976	Maynard Jackson	Mayor, City of Atlanta
1977	Mohammed Ali	U.S. Heavyweight Boxing Champion
	John Conyers	U.S. Congressman
1978	Walter Fauntroy	Washington, D.C. Congressional Delegate
1979	Perren Mitchell	U.S. Congressman
1980	Mickey Leland	U.S. Congressman
1981	Reverend Arthur Langford	Councilman, Atlanta
1982	Benjamin Hooks	Executive Director, NAACP
1983	Joseph Lowery	President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference
1984	Ronald Reagan via satellite	40 th President of the United States of America
1985	Willie Brown	Speaker of the House, California General Assembly
1986	Reverend Leon Sullivan	President, Opportunities Industrialization Center
1987	Dr. Alvin Poussaint	Physician & Consultant to the Cosby Show
1988	Cecil Partee	Treasurer, City of Chicago
1989	Reverend Jesse Jackson	President, Rainbow Coalition
1990	Tony Brown	Television Personality President,
1991	Reverend Jesse Jackson	Rainbow Coalition
1992	Andrew Young	Ambassador to the United Nations
1993	Roland Burris	Comptroller State of Illinois
1994	Maynard Jackson	Former Mayor, City of Atlanta
1995	Emmanuel Cleaver	Mayor, City of Kansas City
1996	Susan Taylor	President, Essence Magazine
1997	Willie Brown	Mayor, City of San Francisco
1998	Togo West	Secretary of the Army
1999	Martin Luther King III	President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference & the son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
2000	Danny Glover	Actor & Community Activist
2001	Tony Brown	Television Personality and Radio Show Host, & President of Tony Brown Production
2002	Marc Morial	Mayor, City of New Orleans
2003	Mary Mitchell	Columnist & Editorial Board Member, Chicago Sun Times
2004	Kweisi Mfume	President, NAACP Manager,
2005	Dusty Baker	Chicago Cubs Head Coach,
	Lovie Smith	Chicago Bears
	Ozzie Guillen	Manager, Chicago White Sox
2006	John Bryant	Founder, Chairman & CEO, Operation HOPE
2007	Dr. B. Joseph White	President, University of Illinois System
2008	John Bryant	Founder, Chairman, Operation HOPE
2009	John Burgess	Managing Director, International Profit Associates
2010	Ken Williams (Honoree)	Senior Vice President and General Manager, Chicago White Sox
2011	David D. Hiller	President & CEO, The McCormick Foundation
2012	Dr. Michael J. Hogan	President, University of Illinois System
2013	Candi Castleberry-Singleton	Chief Inclusion & Diversity Officer, U of Pittsburg Medical Center
2014	Karen Atwood	President, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
2015	John W Fountain	Professor, Roosevelt University & Columnist, Chicago Sun Times
2016	Attorney Lori Lightfoot	President, Chicago Police Board
2017	LaShawn Ford	Representative, Illinois General Assembly
2018	The Honorable Randall Woodfin	Mayor, City of Birmingham
2019	The Honorable Kwame Raoul	Attorney General State of Illinois
2020	Postponed due to COVID-19	
2021	Blind Boys of Alabama	Grammy Award Winning Musical Artists
2022	Dr. Georges Benjamin	Executive Director, American Public Health Association
2023	Dr. Timothy L. Killeen	President, University of Illinois Systems