

Alfred University joins international movement to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on 50th anniversary of his death

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The Alfred University community will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of events Wednesday.

From 9 am to about 3 pm, members of the community are invited to join the Art Force Five to paint a tile in the Campus Center to help create a mural celebrating Dr. King's life. The final tile will be put into place at 6:01 pm, the time of Dr. King's death.

At 6:01 pm in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, a student-led panel will offer their inputs, information, and perspectives on guns. "We ask you come with an open mind and curiosity," organizers ask. "All perspectives are welcome." The event will begin with the final mural tile being put into place.

At 7:01 pm, The Davis Memorial Carillon's largest bell (3,850 lbs) will toll 39 times. This honors a request by the National Civil Rights Museum for church and campus bells around the world to join that day's MLK50 Bell Toll. King, an American Baptist minister and nonviolence activist, was fatally shot at age 39 on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. The site is now the location of the National Civil Rights Museum. The event happened at approximately 6:01 Central Standard time; churches and campuses around the world are adjusting for the time zone in order to have a simultaneous event. The National Civil Rights Museum wants to help the world reflect, but not linger on the past, but instead use that horrific event to propel us forward. Stephen Crandall, dean of libraries and Herrick Memorial Library director, will toll the Alfred University carillon bells.