Herb Cawthorne keynote speaker of ALA 5th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration

Herb Cawthorne, vice president of operations, Southeastern Economic Development Corporation, will be the keynote speaker of the 5th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration, January 12, 2004, San Diego Convention Center, Room 8, from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.

The theme for this year’s celebration is "A Challenge to America's Libraries: Ensuring Information Access to All People." The event will focus on the importance of diversity in America’s libraries, and serves as a showcase of ALA’s diversity-centric organizations that will honor the legacy and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Herb Cawthorne is a powerful public speaker that has perfected a memorable program of speeches and works of Dr. King, which he will present at the Sunrise Celebration. Cawthorne was previously a news anchor with KGTV-10, ABC affiliate, San Diego, for 12 years, and honored by that city’s Association of Black Journalists. Before Channel 10, Cawthorne was president of the Urban League of San Diego, Urban League of Portland, Ore., and president of the Portland Board of Education. He also was a guest talk show host on KOGO/AM 600 and on radio stations in Portland.
Joining Cawthorne are:

- Lucille Cole Thomas, who in 1993 was appointed by the Mayor of New York City to the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library, where she now serves as vice president. Thomas is the former assistant director of the New York City Board of Education, Office of Library, Media & Telecommunications.

  Thomas has been a member of ALA since 1957, and has served on: the ALA Council for 22 years, the ALA Executive Board from 1985-1991, and has held numerous other positions of leadership in the ALA and its divisions. In addition, Thomas was recognized as an honorary member in 2003 for her notable contributions to the profession as a librarian, educator and library trustee, her leadership role at the local, state, national and international levels, and her unstinting contributions to the education of children and young adults. Thomas is also a past member of the Board of Directors of the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA).

- Virginia Moore, who has served as an ALA Councilor from 1983-1991 and continuously since 1996, will open the program as chair of the Social Responsibilities Round Table’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance Task Force, and co-chair of this event. She is a retired library media specialist and works as a part-time reference librarian at the Greenbelt Branch of the Prince
George’s County Memorial Library System. She has been a life member of ALA since 1988.

- **Andrew P. Jackson** (Sekous Molefi Baako), executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural center in Corona, NY. Jackson is President-Elect of ALA’s Black Caucus. Jackson also is a Sunrise Celebration planning committee co-chair, and will close the program.

ALA President Carla Hayden, ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, Paul Kobasa, World Book, Inc. and Isabel Espinal, OLOS Advisory Committee chair will serve as presenters.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration is made possible by the efforts of: the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS); the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table; the Black Caucus of the ALA, and World Book, Inc.

For more information regarding the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunrise Celebration, please contact Beatrice Calvin, communications specialist, OLOS at 312-280-4280, or bcalvin@ala.org.