

# MLK's niece, now anti-abortion activist, coming to Waco

**By Terri Jo Ryan**

Tribune-Herald staff writer

Alveda King, eldest niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., will be speaking in Waco under the sponsorship of Pro-Life Waco on Sept. 9-10, sharing her experience with two abortions in her past and her hopes for black America's future.

King, 57, a nondenominational minister, works with a Catholic organization, Priests for Life, as its director of African American Outreach. She became active in the campaign against abortion 25 years ago, the mother of six said in a recent telephone interview from her Atlanta-area home.

"I'm coming to Waco to share information about life, liberty and the pursuit of justice," King said. "There are so many problems in the South today, and Waco is no

stranger to that turbulence. Until we reverence life from the moment of conception to its natural end; unless life is sacred to us, as a nation, we can continue to expect to see blood spilled in our streets."

King, a Republican since 1998, said she sees the abortion issue through the lens of a civil rights crusader.

"Abortion violates the civil rights of an innocent person by depriving him of life," she said.

Moreover, she contends, some 15 million African-Americans have been eliminated through the procedure legalized in 1973 — a quarter of the nation's black population.

It's an outcome the Ku Klux Klan could take pride in, she added.

King's local itinerary includes:

■ Pro-Life Waco's Second Sunday monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Sept. 9 at St. Mary Catholic Church of the Assumption's parish hall,

15th Street and Columbus Avenue. Her talk follows the noon pasta luncheon, which costs \$3 a plate.

■ A special public presentation at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Brazos North room of the Waco Convention Center.

■ A talk at noon Sept. 10 in Miller Chapel in the Tidwell Building at Baylor University, sponsored by the Bears for Life student group.

The Rev. Rusty Lee Thomas of Elijah Ministries, a local anti-abortion activist and national leader with Operation Save America, also reported to his followers on Thursday that King requested to tour Rachel's Park Memorial.

So Thomas will escort King through the commemorative green, where the Tomb of the Unknown Baby lies, and 4,000 small white crosses are permanently planted to symbolize the number of abortions performed in the Unit-

ed States each day.

King's colorful resumé includes not only being a Democratic state representative in Georgia from 1979 to 1981, composer of religious music, founder of a faith-based organization (King For America Inc.) and college professor. She also was an actress, playing a slave in the ABC-TV miniseries "North and South."

She also appeared on "In The Heat of the Night", the romantic fantasy film *Made in Heaven*, the action thriller *Sharkey's Machine* and the 1978 NBC miniseries "King," about her famous uncle.

Her self-published family memoir, *Sons of Thunder: The King Family Legacy*, depicts the civil rights era she lived through, including the 1963 bombing of her family's Alabama home. She also writes about her late father, MLK's youngest sibling, the Rev. Alfred

Daniel Williams King.

A.D. King was found dead in the family's swimming pool on July 21, 1969 — just 15 months after the assassination of his brother, Martin. Alveda King said that although law enforcement and the media reported the suspicious death as an accidental drowning, she believes differently.

"He was a champion swimmer in college," she said. "In 1969, one week after he walked me down the aisle when I got married (the first time), my dad was found, in his underwear, in a swimming pool with no water in his lungs and a bruise on his head. It was no accident."

On her Web site [www.kingforamerica.com](http://www.kingforamerica.com), in fact, she calls herself "daughter of the late slain civil rights activist Rev. A.D. King."

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Alveda King will speak Sept. 9-10 about her experience with her two abortions and her hopes for the future of black America. Her visit is sponsored by Pro-Life Waco.