Forty years after his death, the righteous influence of Malcolm X is still motivating and influencing individuals all around the world to fight for their human rights. If not for the unjust murder of Malcolm X, the 81st birthday of this civil rights leader would have been on Friday, May 19th.

Remembering Malcolm X

A young Malcolm Little. (The Everett Collection)
Remembering Malcolm X

Two policemen carry stretcher bearing a wounded Malcom X after he was downed by an assassin's bullets at a rally February 21st at the Audobon Ballroom in Harlem. The 39-year-old leader was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Remembering Malcolm X

Malcolm X, returns home after his house is bombed February 14, 1965.
Remembering Malcolm X

U.S. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, (D-NY.), and Malcolm X at Siloam Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn before March 16th boycott of New York City public schools. More than 165,000 students staged the anti-segregation protest although many civil rights groups withheld support. (Corbis)
Ossie Davis delivers eulogy for Malcolm X at the funeral services for the slain leader in the Faith Temple of God in Christ in New York's Harlem, February 27, 1965. Davis called Malcolm a "Brave and gallant young champion." (AP)

Malcolm X addresses a rally in Harlem on June 29, 1963. (AP)
Elijah Muhammad, founder and head of the Nation of Islam, is shown at a lecturn in Chicago introducing Malcolm X on Feb. 26, 1961. (Paul Cannon, AP)
Annual pilgrimage commemorates the birthday of Civil Rights Activist Malcolm X

05-15-2006

Forty years after his death, the righteous influence of Malcolm X is still motivating and influencing individuals all around the world to fight for their human rights. If not for the unjust murder of Malcolm X, the 81st birthday of this civil rights leader would have been on Friday, May 19th.

Although Malcolm X made his mark years ago, an annual pilgrimage to the burial site of El Malik El Shabazz is still performed by faithful followers. Conceived and initiated by Ella Little-Collins, Malcolm's big sister, the pilgrimage has occurred each and every year since his assassination.

Prof. James Small, who is a surviving member of Malcolm's Muslim Mosque, Inc. and the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), has coordinated the pilgrimage since 1966. On Malcolm X's birthday, the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee (MXCC) and the Sons And Daughters Of Afrika will co-host the annual pilgrimage and caravan to the gravesite. The MXCC joined the pilgrimage as co-hosts in 1992, and expanded its outreach all along the northeast corridor.

Herman Ferguson, elder activist and former close colleague of Malcolm X, is the MXCC's chairman emeritus and a founding member of the Malcolm X OAAU. Ferguson thinks very highly of Malcolm X, and wants everyone to appreciate the accomplishments of his close friend and role model.

“The 19th of May should be a holiday where people all over the United States set aside that day to commemorate Brother Malcolm's birth date, one of our great leaders of the Black Nationalist movement,” Ferguson said.

Each year, pilgrimage participants are expected to assemble at the Harlem State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street at Adam Clayton Powell Blvd., Harlem at 9 a.m. on May 19th, and the buses depart for the gravesite at 10 a.m. Donation for the buses is $5 for adults and $3 for children, and families are asked to make reservations in advance. For more information, call the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee at (718) 949-5153.
**ABOUT MALCOLM X**

QUOTES

**By Malcolm X**
"When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that he will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a man saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath he is going to tell you what he won't do to get it, or what he doesn't believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn't believe in freedom. A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire . . . or preserve his freedom."

**From articles and speeches**
"I believe in the brotherhood of man, all men, but I don’t believe in brotherhood with anybody who doesn’t want brotherhood with me. I believe in treating people right, but I’m not going to waste my time trying to treat somebody right who doesn’t know how to return the treatment."
-- Speech, Dec. 12 1964, New York City

**About Malcolm X**
"...I always had a deep affection for Malcolm and felt that he had a great ability to put his finger on the existence and the root of the problem. He was an eloquent spokesman for his point of view and no one can honestly doubt that Malcolm had a great concern for the problems we face as a race."
-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a telegram to Betty Shabazz after the murder of Malcolm X.