By Ginger Grantham
News Editor

It was a full house at the Moulton Recreation Center Monday evening for the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Dinner. The event was sponsored by the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, the Lawrence County NAACP and the Moulton Civic & Social Club. Very few table seats were vacant.

Moulton Mayor Ray Alexander issued a welcome to those attending while Kenneth Brackins served as master of ceremonies. The Lawrence County High School Color Guard presented the colors. The R.A. Hubbard Chorus and students from East Lawrence sang.

Joe Hill, Chamber president, recognized the top sponsors. International Paper was a Platinum Level sponsor for $2,000; Gold sponsors were Joe Wheeler EMC and Jack Daniel Cooperage for $1,500 each; and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System was a Bronze sponsor for $750. Support sponsors were Lynn Layton, Gobble Fite, BP and Pepsi for $500 each.

CB&S Bank was recognized as the ticket sponsor. Scripture was read by Pastor Ronald Merriweather of Canaan Missionary Baptist Church and O.D. Bowling, pastor at Moulton Church of Christ, delivered the blessing of the food.

Scholarships of $500 each were presented to Lawrence County students Kristine McMahan of East Lawrence High School, Armontae Martin of R.A. Hubbard High School and Dakota Guzman of Lawrence County High School.

Closing remarks were made by Jack Steele, president of the Moulton Rotary Club, discussed voting rights and her concerns about Alabama’s new requirement of a state-issued ID card. Laura Terry, president of the Moulton Civic & Social Club.

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Jameha Steele-Gardner, Ph.D., spoke of her admiration for Dr. King for his commitment to non-violence, his emphasis on education and the people he admired. She asked if his dream had come true in today’s society with its admiration of celebrities with questionable lifestyles, people choosing not to read and spending too much time on social media.

She also pointed out the King was always well-dressed and clean-shaven. He did not wear sagging pants that showed underwear. She said people should emulate King because he stood proud, strong and tall.

North Courtland Mayor Ronald Jones introduced the speaker, Dr. O. Wendell Davis, pastor of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville.

Davis said in God’s eyes all men are created equal. He paid tribute to those people, black and white, who gave their lives for equality and justice. He recalled the segregation of past times and pointed a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Davis lamented about black on black crime while stressing the importance of learning from our past. He asked that everyone have a dream to end poverty, injustice and violence. He wanted to see the day come when, as former Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell said, “we will study war no more.”

Celebrating “I have a dream…”

Above, from left, North Courtland Mayor Ronald Jones and Kenneth Brackins listen to speaker Dr. O. Wendell Davis. Below are the winners of a $500 Chamber scholarship. From left are, Kristina McMahan of East Lawrence, Armontae Martin of R.A. Hubbard and Dakota Guzman of Lawrence County.

Above, speakers Jameha Steele-Gardner, Ph.D., left, and Laura Terry, right.

At left, is Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce President Joe Hill.

Below, the R.H. Hubbard Chorus sings at the dinner.