



Civil Rights Leader Pays Tribute to MLK in Jacksonville

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By Ashley Coleman

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--Civil rights activist Reverend H.K. Matthews told a crowd of 500 young students at The Potter's House of Christian Fellowship that the fight for equality isn't over.

The 79-year-old shared his experiences with the students today, on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

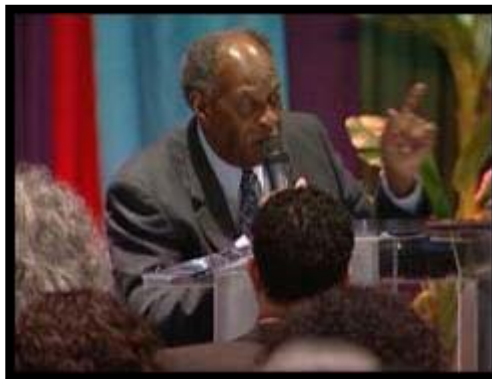
Matthews is a civil rights icon and minister who marched alongside Dr. King in Selma. He has spent the past 40 years, traveling across Florida for basic liberties.

During the civil rights movement, Matthews was jailed 35 times as a political prisoner. He put his life on the line in his fight for equal rights.

"There were several known contracts out on my life. My house was shot into, my automobile was

wired to be blown up. I had some interesting experiences," said Matthews.

He said a police officer was even assigned to kill him during a demonstration.



"You're afraid to sleep at night and afraid to stay awake because you don't want to see what's coming."

Armed guards protected his home.

Matthews also spoke about his support for Step Up For Students

Scholarship Program, a Florida non-profit that provides scholarships for low-income families so their children can get the best education possible.

Today's assembly was held on King's birthday and kicked off the school's Black History Month.