****

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contacts: Darryl Lockett, KKMI, 317.296.4030, [info@kennedykingindy.org](mailto:info@kennedykingindy.org)

Jennifer Chan, Porch Light PR, 317.490.3770, jennifer@porchlightpr.com

**Kennedy King Memorial Initiative Announces**

**2021 Trailblazer, Community Builder and Spirit & Truth Legacy Award Recipients**

*Nonprofit honors individuals and organizations for indelible mark honorees have demonstrated toward diminishing racial conflict, inspiring courageous action and strengthening Indianapolis*

**INDIANAPOLIS (April 2, 2021)** – The [Kennedy King Memorial Initiative](http://kennedykingindy.org) (KKMI), an organization that builds on the historic events of April 4, 1968, today announced its 2021 KKMI Award recipients in conjunction with the 53rd April 4 Day of Reflection in Indianapolis.

The KKMI Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose leadership and work raise awareness, provokes thought and inspires action to eliminate division and injustice. This year, recipients were honored for their contributions to the Indianapolis community and commitment to the values and ideals espoused by

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“On April 4, 1968, Sen. Kennedy inspired a crowd gathered in Indianapolis and conveyed a moving message of peace and forgiveness in the midst of violence across the country following the assassination of Dr. King,” said Darryl Lockett, executive director of the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative. “These awards give us the opportunity to recognize those in our community who are harnessing the tiny ripples of hope set forth 53 years ago to ‘build a current that can sweep down the mightiest wall of oppression and resistance’ and make real the beloved community.”

2021 KKMI Award recipients include:

**Trailblazer Awardees**

***Youth***

* Taylor Hall, artist and activist
* Dejuna Rodriguez, advocate

***Public Official***

* Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush
* State Rep. Robin Shackleford

***Civic Engagement***

* Syed Ali Saeed, Saeed & Little LLP
* Malcolm Brogdon, Indiana Pacers
* Kit Malone, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
* Yecenia Tostado, Project Azul

**Community Builder Awardees**

***Corporate Leadership***

* Anthem & Anthem Foundation
* Cook Medical

-more-

***Nonprofit Leadership***

* Indianapolis Urban League
* VOICES Corp.

***Philanthropic Leadership***

* Central Indiana Community Foundation (Brian Payne)
* Glick Family Foundation (Marianne Glick)

***Faith Leadership***

* Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis
* Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance

**Spirit & Truth Legacy Awardees**

* Jackie Nytes, Indianapolis Public Library
* Bill Shrewsberry, Shrewsberry & Associates

“Making change that’s sustainable requires us all to give voice to those who cannot speak out for themselves, and it is a true honor to be recognized by this amazing organization,” said Pacers star Malcolm Brogdon, recipient of the 2021 KKMI Trailblazer Award for Civic Engagement. “We all have a role to play in addressing systemic disparities and social injustice. I will continue to fight for more equitable outcomes for our most vulnerable communities, and I will use my platform to inspire others to do the same.”

Nominations for the awards were received from community leaders and organizational stakeholders. Given the unique challenges of the past year, the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative chose to honor multiple winners in each category who have committed to diminishing racial conflict, inspiring courageous action and strengthening Indianapolis.

"I am humbled and honored to be a recipient of the 2021 KKMI Trailblazer Award for Public Service. Every day I strive to answer what Dr. King called 'life's most persistent question,' 'What are you doing for others,'” said Rep. Shackleford. “Indianapolis is an incredible city, filled with incredible people who deserve not only equality, but equity and I will continue to work for the people and pursue the justices we all deserve."

For further information on the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative, visit www.kennedykingindy.org. The public is also encouraged to follow the conversation on social media through the hashtag #StillWeReach @KennedyKing1968 or www.facebook.com/KennedyKingMemorialInitiative/.

# # #

***About Kennedy King Memorial Initiative***

The [Kennedy King Memorial Initiative](http://www.kennedykingindy.org) is a voluntary 501(c)3 organization based in Indianapolis that works to commemorate the historic speech delivered by Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Indianapolis on the night that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. The organization’s mission is to keep this unique moment in history alive and to leverage the message of Dr. King and Senator Kennedy to address issues of division and injustice experienced today. With support from the Indiana Pacers Foundation in 1994, an evocative and inspirational memorial sculpture was erected in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. For more information, please visit kennedykingindy.org.