

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SR 3

4
5 By: Senator Steele

6
7
8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE REV. DR.
10 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

11
12 **Subtitle**

13 COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE
14 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

15
16
17 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta,
18 Georgia, on January 15, 1929, and attended schools that prepared him to lead
19 a church as his father and his grandfather had done, but his beliefs, his
20 determination, and his circumstances propelled him to do much more; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. attained a bachelor's
23 degree in sociology from Morehouse College in Georgia in 1948, a Bachelor of
24 Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 1951, and
25 a doctorate degree in Systematic Theology from Boston University in 1955; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., came of age at a time
28 when blacks and whites were segregated in much of the United States and
29 unable to attend the same schools, drink from the same water fountains, or
30 eat in the same restaurants; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., himself attended
33 segregated public elementary and high schools and was graduated from the all-
34 black Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1948; and

35
36 WHEREAS, after marrying Coretta Scott, whom he met while in graduate



1 school in Boston, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., moved to the South,
2 where racial segregation and prejudice were deep-seated and rampant,
3 especially in towns like Montgomery, Alabama, where in 1955, as pastor of the
4 Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the Rev. Dr. King started crusading for change;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, inspired by Rosa Parks' refusal to sit in the rear, "colored"
8 section of a public bus and her subsequent arrest for her refusal to do so,
9 the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated a boycott of public buses
10 that lasted more than a year, vindicated in 1956 by a United States Supreme
11 Court decision banning segregation on public buses, and a movement fueled by
12 nonviolent protest began; and

13
14 WHEREAS, for more than ten (10) years, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
15 King, Jr., frequently gave inspiring speeches, totaling more than two
16 thousand five hundred (2,500) in his lifetime, earning him followers across
17 the United States and internationally; traveled millions of miles; led
18 protest marches, sit-ins, and boycotts which often led to his arrest,
19 everywhere that he saw racial disparity; published five (5) books and
20 numerous articles and essays, including his famous "Letter from a Birmingham
21 Jail" now known as the call to action for the civil rights movement; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was designated the
24 Person of the Year for 1963 by *Time* magazine and won the Nobel Peace Prize in
25 1964; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is perhaps best
28 remembered for delivering his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech in front of a
29 quarter of a million people from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in
30 Washington, D.C., containing his famous line that still resonates today, "I
31 have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where
32 they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of
33 their character"; and

34
35 WHEREAS, five (5) years later, on April 4, 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin
36 Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed by an assassin in Memphis, Tennessee,

1 where he was scheduled to lead a protest march, while standing on the balcony
2 outside of his room at the black-owned Lorraine Hotel near Beale Street,
3 causing a wave of violence in major cities across the country; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., lives on
6 today through his followers and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for
7 Nonviolent Social Change, established in 1969 by his widow, Coretta Scott
8 King, which stands next to his beloved Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta,
9 Georgia; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Lorraine Hotel where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,
12 Jr., was assassinated is now the National Civil Rights Museum, and his
13 birthday, January 15, is a national holiday celebrated each year with
14 educational programs, artistic displays, and concerts throughout the United
15 States,
16

17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 THAT, the Senate commemorates the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr.
22 Martin Luther King, Jr., in honor of his historic achievements and
23 contributions to this great nation.
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36