

HR 9107

2006

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring the legacy of Coretta Scott King.

3
4 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott, born and reared on the farm of
5 resourceful, hard-working parents in segregated rural Alabama,
6 was enrolled in the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston,
7 Massachusetts, when she met her future husband, whom she married
8 in 1953 and with whom a year later she moved to Montgomery,
9 Alabama, and

10 WHEREAS, following the arrest of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott
11 King took her place at the side of her husband as he rallied
12 outraged citizens, black and white, to carry out the successful
13 boycott of the city's buses, and

14 WHEREAS, sharing as a full partner in her husband's ever-
15 broadening leadership role in the growing movement that would
16 change the South, ripple through the nation, and reach global
17 proportions, Mrs. King added her unique talents and skills to
18 the cause, and soon her acclaimed Freedom Concerts were being
19 performed throughout the nation while she became increasingly in
20 demand as a public speaker and a participant in various
21 international peace and justice organizations, and

22 WHEREAS, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther
23 King, Jr., in Memphis on April 4, 1968, while she considered the
24 couple's four children her first responsibility, Mrs. King was
25 determined to keep his dream alive and, just four days after his
26 death, took his place as leader of a march of 50,000 people
27 through the streets of Memphis, and

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28 WHEREAS, Mrs. King continued and expanded the scope of the
29 work she had so zealously shared with her late husband, becoming
30 widely identified with a broad array of international human
31 rights issues, but her two major concerns were to establish the
32 Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in
33 Atlanta and to have her husband's birthday honored as a national
34 holiday, objectives realized with the opening of the Center in
35 1981 and, in 1986, the first observance of January 15 as a
36 national holiday in honor of the slain civil rights leader, and

37 WHEREAS, on January 30, 2006, at the age of 78, Coretta
38 Scott King passed away and a voice that had been fervently and
39 beautifully lifted in the cause of freedom and justice became
40 resoundingly silent, NOW, THEREFORE,

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42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
43 Florida:

44
45 That the House of Representatives joins the nation in
46 mourning the death of Coretta Scott King, one of the world's
47 great leaders in the crusade for the rights of all people, but
48 derives great hope and encouragement from her life and legacy.