

HR 9001A

2007

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

3
4 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15,
5 1929, and lived only to the age of 39 but in that short period
6 of time left a legacy that we honor annually each January with
7 state and national holidays, and

8 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., was remarkable early on
9 and as a student entered Morehouse College at the age of 15 to
10 earn his first bachelor's degree in 1948; he would later receive
11 a second bachelor's degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in
12 1951 and a doctorate degree from Boston University in 1955, and

13 WHEREAS, rather than becoming a professor, Dr. King
14 continued the tradition of his father and grandfather and became
15 a pastor, becoming assistant pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church
16 in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1948 and pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist
17 Church in Montgomery, Alabama, from 1954 to 1959 after which he
18 returned to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern
19 Christian Leadership Conference and to serve until his death in
20 1968 as co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church,
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in 1953 Martin Luther King, Jr., married Coretta
23 Scott, a marriage that produced two sons and two daughters, and
24 in 1954 they moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where Dr. King's
25 position as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church led to
26 his being elected President of the Montgomery Improvement
27 Association, the organization responsible for the successful
28 Montgomery Bus Boycott from 1955 to 1956 that was sparked by

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29 Rosa Parks' famous refusal to give up her seat and move to the
30 back of a Montgomery city bus, and

31 WHEREAS, in 1957 Dr. King helped found and was elected
32 president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an
33 organization formed to provide new leadership for the burgeoning
34 civil rights movement, and

35 WHEREAS, his success with the bus boycott and the Southern
36 Christian Leadership Conference made Dr. King a pivotal, if not
37 the preeminent, leader of the nation's civil rights movement and
38 a prominent proponent of social change through nonviolent civil
39 disobedience, which approach was successfully used in
40 Birmingham, Alabama, in the spring of 1963 in protests against
41 the segregationist laws then in effect throughout the South, and

42 WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, at the March on Washington
43 that drew more than 250,000 people demanding equal rights for
44 minorities, Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in
45 front of the Lincoln Memorial, and

46 WHEREAS, Dr. King, as a result of his increasing prestige
47 and efforts, was instrumental in pressuring the Federal
48 Government to pass both the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the
49 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and

50 WHEREAS, Dr. King was named Time magazine's Man of the Year
51 in 1963 and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and

52 WHEREAS, on April 4, 1968, Dr. King was in Memphis,
53 Tennessee, to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against
54 low wages and poor working conditions when he was assassinated
55 while standing on the balcony of his motel room, and

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56 WHEREAS, when asked on an earlier occasion regarding his
57 possible legacy, Dr. King had said that he just wanted to leave
58 a committed life behind, NOW, THEREFORE,

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60 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
61 Florida:

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63 That the Florida House of Representatives hereby honors the
64 life, achievements, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
65 especially for his courage and dedication to ensuring our
66 nation's commitment to equal treatment for all under the law.