

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAINES, BAGNERIS, BOUIE, BRASS, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, COX, FRANKLIN, GLOVER, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, HUNTER, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JORDAN, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, NORTON, PIERRE, AND SMITH AND SENATORS BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, COLOMB, MORRELL, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., fought to end segregation in the United States and was a leader of one of the first mass desegregation acts in the South, the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott; and

WHEREAS, one hundred years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Dr. King organized a march of hundreds of thousands of blacks and whites, Jews and Gentiles, and Protestants and Catholics, on August 28, 1963, to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.; it was here that the signal to end government-sponsored segregation was given in Dr. King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; he successfully advocated by means of a nonviolent march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which struck down legal barriers at state and local levels that prevented the nation's black population from exercising the right to vote as guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were a testament to his conviction that "there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right"; and

WHEREAS, Memphis, Tennessee, was the unfortunate site of a deeply national tragedy, the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, one day after his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech at Mason Temple Church that moved the hearts and souls of all who heard it; Dr. King was in Memphis to support a nonviolent strike by sanitation workers following the deaths of two black employees, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, in a malfunctioning city garbage truck; and

WHEREAS, MLK50: Memphis Remembers, a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was organized by citizens in the community of Memphis and will take place on Tuesday, April 4, 2018, the fifty-year anniversary of his death; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana joins Memphis and the nation in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the citizens of the state pledge to make progress toward civility and unity consistent with the values and life work of Dr. King to achieve his dream of freedom and equality for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., upon the fiftieth anniversary of his death and does hereby commemorate the city of Memphis for its celebration of MLK50: Memphis Remembers.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE