

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 31 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY GAINNEY, HENNESSEY, MILLARD, SONNEY, SAMUELSON, READSHAW, NEILSON, BIZZARRO, PASHINSKI, EVERETT, STAATS, HARKINS, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, KINSEY, DIGIROLAMO, McNEILL, RABB, HILL-EVANS, ROTHMAN, KORTZ, MENTZER, YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, SANCHEZ, BROWN, FRANKEL, CONKLIN, GROVE, GOODMAN, STURLA, McCARTER, ISAACSON, DEASY, McCLINTON, MURT, FREEMAN, WARREN, CALTAGIRONE, B. MILLER, SCHWEYER, A. DAVIS, FITZGERALD, SNYDER, OBERLANDER, STRUZZI, BURNS, RAVENSTAHL, BARRAR, JOZWIAK, TOOHIL, MULLINS, SAINATO, FIEDLER, INNAMORATO, ZABEL, LEWIS, COMITTA, T. DAVIS, MARKOSEK, MEHAFFIE, SAYLOR, DAVIDSON, HELM, BRADFORD, PICKETT, HEFFLEY AND DELLOSO, JANUARY 14, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 14, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and
 2 recognizing the week of January 20 through 26, 2019, as
 3 "Martin Luther King, Jr., Week of Remembrance" in
 4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., born on January 15, 1929,
 6 in Atlanta, Georgia, followed in his father's and grandfather's
 7 footsteps by becoming a Baptist minister after graduation from
 8 Morehouse College in 1948 and Crozer Theological Seminary in
 9 1951; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. King received his doctorate from Boston
 11 University in 1955; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1954, as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist
 13 Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King organized a citywide

1 boycott of the city's segregated busing system which led to a
2 United States Supreme Court decision forcing desegregation of
3 the buses; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout this and later civil rights protests, Dr.
5 King espoused the philosophy of nonviolent passive resistance
6 and civil disobedience; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King moved back to Atlanta to join his
8 father as associate pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church and
9 organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight
10 segregation and discrimination throughout the South; and

11 WHEREAS, During the following years, Dr. King was frequently
12 arrested, beaten, jailed and threatened with violence as a
13 result of his protest activities; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. King led a massive voter registration drive in
15 Selma, Alabama, resulting in the famous freedom march to
16 Montgomery, the state capital; and

17 WHEREAS, His famous march on Washington, DC, in 1963
18 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial at which he
19 gave his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. King's efforts resulted in enactment of the
21 Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

22 WHEREAS, His personal sacrifices and determined leadership of
23 the civil rights movement in the United States were formally
24 recognized in 1964 when he received the Nobel Peace Prize; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 while in Memphis,
26 Tennessee, to organize a Poor People's Campaign; and

27 WHEREAS, The third Monday of January has been designated as a
28 national holiday in order to give all Americans an opportunity
29 to reflect upon the profound impact Dr. King has had on life in
30 the United States; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
2 and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and recognize the
3 week of January 20 through 26, 2019, as "Martin Luther King,
4 Jr., Week of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
6 Pennsylvanians to be mindful of the spirit and work of Dr.
7 Martin Luther King, Jr., and to remember his commitment to
8 peaceful protest and his dedication to equality and equal
9 protection for all mankind on the designated week of his
10 remembrance, January 20 through 26, 2019, and throughout the
11 year.