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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 221 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY STREET, KANE, HAYWOOD, SAVAL, KEARNEY, DUSH,  
CAPPELLETTI, PHILLIPS-HILL, COMITTA, BOSCOLA, TARTAGLIONE,  
SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, COLLETT, MILLER AND COSTA,  
JANUARY 2, 2024

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 2, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 14 through 21, 2024, as "Dr.  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week" in Pennsylvania.

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

8 WHEREAS, Dr. King received his doctorate from Boston  
9 University in 1955; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1954, as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist  
11 Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King organized a boycott of  
12 the city's segregated busing system, which led to a United  
13 States Supreme Court decision forcing desegregation of the  
14 buses; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout this and later civil rights protests, Dr.  
16 King espoused the philosophy of nonviolent passive resistance  
17 and civil disobedience; and

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

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

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

11       WHEREAS, Dr. King's famous march on Washington, DC, in 1963  
12 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial where he  
13 gave his immortal "I have a dream" speech; and

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

16       WHEREAS, Dr. King's personal sacrifices and determined  
17 leadership of the civil rights movement in the United States  
18 were formally recognized in 1964 when he received the Nobel  
19 Peace Prize; and

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

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

26       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of January 14  
27 through 21, 2024, as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week"  
28 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29       RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all Pennsylvanians to be  
30 mindful of the spirit and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

1 and to remember his commitment to peace and his dedication to  
2 equality for all human beings on the designated week of his  
3 remembrance and throughout the year.