

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 74 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOYD, COHEN,  
D. COSTA, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, D. EVANS, FRANKEL,  
GEORGE, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAJOR,  
MANDERINO, MANN, MILLARD, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, QUINN,  
SANTONI, SCAVELLO, TRUE, WALKO, WHEATLEY AND WHITE,  
FEBRUARY 13, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 18 through 24, 2009, as "Martin  
2 Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week."

3 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., born on January 15, 1929,  
4 in 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, He received his doctorate from Boston University in  
9 1955; and

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

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

1 and civil disobedience; and

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, His famous march on Washington, D.C., in 1963  
13 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial at which he  
14 gave his immortal "I have a dream" speech; and

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

17 WHEREAS, His personal sacrifices and determined leadership of  
18 the civil rights movement in the United States were formally  
19 recognized in 1964 when he received the Nobel 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 House of Representatives designate the  
27 week of January 18 through 24, 2009, as "Martin Luther King,  
28 Jr., Holiday Week"; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
30 Pennsylvanians to be mindful of the spirit and work of Dr.

1 Martin Luther King, Jr., and to remember his commitment to peace  
2 and his dedication to equality for all human beings on the  
3 designated week of his remembrance, January 18 through 24, 2009,  
4 and throughout the year.