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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 21

Session of  
1997

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INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, LEDERER, ROBINSON, BAKER, LAUGHLIN,  
ROEBUCK, DONATUCCI, FICHTER, CURRY, CLYMER, MICHLOVIC AND  
C. WILLIAMS, JANUARY 27, 1997

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 27, 1997

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 13 through 20, 1997, as "Martin  
2 Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 while in Memphis,  
20 Tennessee, to organize a "poor people's campaign"; and

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

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
26 Pennsylvanians to be mindful of the spirit and work of Dr.  
27 Martin Luther King, Jr., and to remember his commitment to peace  
28 and his dedication to equality for all human beings on the  
29 designated week of his remembrance, January 13 through 20, 1997,  
30 and throughout the year.