
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 309 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, MARCH 27, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 27, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin
2 Luther King, Jr.

3 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15,
4 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the Reverend Martin Luther King,
5 Sr., and Alberta Williams King; and

6 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., grew up in Atlanta and
7 attended Morehouse College, graduating in 1948; and

8 WHEREAS, During Dr. King's final semester at Morehouse, he
9 was ordained; and

10 WHEREAS, During that time, Dr. King took his first steps
11 toward political activism by responding through a letter to the
12 editor regarding the postwar wave of anti-black violence; and

13 WHEREAS, After leaving Morehouse, Dr. King continued his
14 progression of faith by attending Crozer Theological Seminary in
15 Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, After completing his time at the seminary in 1951,
17 Dr. King enrolled in a doctoral program at Boston University;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, During his time in Boston, Dr. King met and courted
2 Coretta Scott; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. King and Coretta Scott were married in June of
4 1953 in Alabama and had four children, Yolanda Denise, Martin
5 Luther III, Dexter Scott and Bernice Albertine; and

6 WHEREAS, Through the 1950s and 1960s, drawing inspiration
7 from his Christian faith and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi,
8 Dr. King led a nonviolent movement to achieve legal equality for
9 African Americans in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. King used the power of words and acts of
11 nonviolent resistance such as protests, grassroots organizing
12 and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly impossible goals;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to leading the movement to achieve legal
15 equality for African Americans, Dr. King lead campaigns against
16 poverty and international conflict; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1955, Dr. King served as the spokesman for the
18 Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a campaign by the African-
19 American population of Montgomery, Alabama, to integrate the
20 city's bus lines; and

21 WHEREAS, Three hundred eighty-two days after near-universal
22 participation by the African-American citizens of Montgomery,
23 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled racial segregation
24 in transportation to be unconstitutional; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. King was elected president of the Southern
26 Christian Leadership Conference in 1957; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. King served as head of that organization,
28 designed to provide new leadership for the civil rights
29 movement, until he was assassinated in 1968; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1963, Dr. King led a coalition of civil rights

1 groups in a nonviolent campaign aimed at Birmingham, Alabama,
2 which at the time was described as "the most segregated city in
3 America"; and

4 WHEREAS, The brutality of the city's police force in
5 Birmingham, Alabama, was highlighted by vivid television images
6 that led to national outrage and unprecedented civil rights
7 legislation; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. King was a driving force behind the March on
9 Washington for Jobs and Freedom, commonly known as the "March on
10 Washington"; and

11 WHEREAS, The March on Washington drew more than a quarter of
12 a million people to the National Mall in Washington, DC; and

13 WHEREAS, At the march, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have
14 a Dream" speech; and

15 WHEREAS, Due in part to the power of the March on Washington,
16 the Congress of the United States enacted the Voting Rights Act
17 of 1965; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1964, at 35 years of age, Dr. King became the
19 youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize at the time; and

20 WHEREAS, Between 1965 and 1968, Dr. King shifted his focus
21 toward economic justice, which culminated in the "Poor People's
22 Campaign"; and

23 WHEREAS, The Poor People's Campaign was a broad effort to
24 assemble a multiracial coalition of impoverished Americans who
25 would advocate for economic change; and

26 WHEREAS, On April 4, 1968, less than 13 years after he took a
27 leading role in advocacy through nonviolent means, Dr. King was
28 assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. King was laid to rest in his hometown of
30 Atlanta, Georgia; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. King specifically had an instrumental influence
2 on American morality during a crucial time in our country's
3 history when, to many, morals seemed less than absolute; and

4 WHEREAS, Since his assassination, Dr. King has continued to
5 inspire countless individuals of all races and ethnicities to
6 stand for and demand change; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 50th anniversary of
8 the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.