

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 8

Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GAINNEY, J. HARRIS, KOTIK, FRANKEL, SCHREIBER, KIRKLAND, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, WHEATLEY, READSHAW, THOMAS, D. COSTA, BISHOP, PICKETT, FREEMAN, VEREB, KIM, DIGIROLAMO, BOYLE, DUSH, SONNEY, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, MILLARD, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, C. PARKER, SAMUELSON, W. KELLER, DERMODY, CONKLIN, McNEILL, HAHN, SCHWEYER, PASHINSKI, BROWNLEE, DAVIS, SAINATO, DAVIDSON, STURLA, WHEELAND, ROSS, MAJOR, GOODMAN, WATERS, FARINA, MURT, DONATUCCI, McCARTER, MENTZER, V. BROWN AND MARSICO, JANUARY 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and
2 recognizing the week of January 18 through 25, 2015, 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, He received his doctorate from Boston University in
11 1955; and

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

1 the buses; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
30 and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and recognize the

1 week of January 18 through 25, 2015, as "Martin Luther King,
2 Jr., Week of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
4 Pennsylvanians to be mindful of the spirit and work of Dr.
5 Martin Luther King, Jr., and to remember his commitment to
6 peaceful protest and his dedication to equality and equal
7 protection for all mankind on the designated week of his
8 remembrance, January 18 through 25, 2015, and throughout the
9 year.