

Senate Resolution 620

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Jones II of the 22nd, Parent of the 42nd, Halpern of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Dexter Scott King, the cherished son of
2 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and acknowledging his
3 immeasurable contributions to the advancement of civil rights and social justice; and for
4 other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of Dexter Scott King, who departed this
6 world on January 22, 2024, leaving behind a profound impact on our collective
7 consciousness; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. King is preceded in death by his revered parents, Reverend Dr. Martin
9 Luther King Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and his sister, Yolanda Denise King, and is
10 survived by his loving wife, Leah Weber King; siblings, Martin Luther King III and Bernice
11 Albertine King; niece, Yolanda Renee King; mother-in-law; father-in-law; and a host of
12 other relatives; and

13 WHEREAS, throughout his lifetime, Mr. King exemplified unwavering dedication to
14 uplifting his fellow citizens through preserving the invaluable legacy of nonviolent activism
15 championed by Dr. and Mrs. King; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. King's historic act of reconciliation in 1997, when he, alongside his mother,
17 Coretta Scott King, and siblings, embarked on a pursuit of truth regarding Dr. King's
18 assassination, concluded that the convicted assassin James Earl Ray was not responsible for
19 Dr. King's death, underscoring a profound commitment to justice, healing, and reconciliation;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in his capacity as chairman and former president and CEO of the Martin Luther
22 King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center), Mr. King orchestrated a
23 transformative shift in the organization's focus to equip the charity for a paradigm shift,
24 dedicated to fostering the Beloved Community and promoting Kingian Nonviolence through
25 cutting-edge innovations and programs for the next generation; and

26 WHEREAS, as chairman and president of the Estate of Martin Luther King Jr. Inc., Mr. King
27 dedicated his career to overseeing the precedent set by Dr. King to legally protect his
28 intellectual property, including copyrighted speeches, sermons, and other writings; and

29 WHEREAS, beyond his notable roles with the King legacy, Mr. King distinguished himself
30 as a talented actor, producer, and writer, utilizing film, music, and books as powerful
31 mediums to share his father's story with the world; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. King's journey began in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was born on January
33 30, 1961, and where he attended Frederick Douglass High School and later pursued his
34 education at Morehouse College, mirroring his father's commitment to education and service
35 to the community; and

36 WHEREAS, rooted in the rich traditions of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where his grandfather
37 also served as pastor and his father as co-pastor from 1960 to 1968, Mr. King inherited a
38 profound sense of duty to advocate for justice and equality; and

39 WHEREAS, despite the profound loss of his father at the tender age of seven, Mr. King
40 embraced his role as a beacon of hope and resilience alongside his siblings; and

41 WHEREAS, the indelible mark left by Dexter Scott King on the fabric of civil rights history
42 in Georgia and across the nation serves as an enduring inspiration for generations to come.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
44 honor the life and legacy of Dexter Scott King; celebrate his steadfast commitment to
45 reconciliation, social justice, and peace; and extend their deepest sympathies to the entire
46 King family during this time of profound loss.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
48 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
49 Dexter Scott King.