



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th anniversary of Senator Robert Kennedy's speech on April 4, 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Porter, Bartlett, Brown C, Harris,
Candelaria Reardon, Smith V,
Shackleford, Summers, Taylor J**

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the
2 50th anniversary of Senator Robert Kennedy's speech on April
3 4, 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King
4 Jr.

5 *Whereas, Robert F. Kennedy, a United States Senator from*
6 *New York, was campaigning in Indiana on April 4, 1968, when*
7 *he learned that Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated*
8 *in Memphis, Tennessee;*

9 *Whereas, Senator Kennedy had been campaigning at the*
10 *University of Notre Dame in South Bend and at Ball State*
11 *University in Muncie when he learned that Dr. King had been*
12 *shot;*

13 *Whereas, Upon arriving in Indianapolis, Senator Kennedy*
14 *was informed that Dr. King had died;*

15 *Whereas, Despite fears of riots and concerns for his safety,*
16 *Senator Kennedy attended a planned rally;*

17 *Whereas, Instead of the planned campaign speech, Senator*
18 *Kennedy offered brief, impassioned remarks asking for peace;*

19 *Whereas, Although Senator Kennedy spoke for just five*
20 *minutes, his remarks are considered to be one of the greatest*
21 *speeches of the modern era;*

22 *Whereas, Senator Kennedy was the first to inform the crowd*
23 *of the assassination of Dr. King from the back of a flatbed*
24 *truck;*



1 *Whereas, Thanks to his remarks, there was no violence in*
 2 *Indianapolis on that horrible night, unlike many other*
 3 *American cities, where there was violence and rioting;*

4 *Whereas, On September 30, 1995, the Landmark for Peace*
 5 *was unveiled at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. It consisted of a*
 6 *sculpture of Senator Kennedy and Dr. King reaching out to*
 7 *each other. Then-President Bill Clinton attended and spoke at*
 8 *the unveiling;*

9
 10 *Whereas, The Indianapolis community has commemorated*
 11 *Senator Kennedy's speech annually since 2005 at the location*
 12 *of the original speech, Martin Luther King Jr. Park. There is*
 13 *also an annual remembrance on June 6 for Senator Kennedy on*
 14 *the anniversary of his untimely and tragic death;*

15 *Whereas, The Kennedy King Memorial Initiative (KKMI) was*
 16 *founded to plan the annual April 4 and June 6 events; the*
 17 *KKMI also raises money for improvements to Martin Luther*
 18 *King Jr. Park;*

19 *Whereas, United States Representative Andre Carson has*
 20 *filed H.R. 4851 (Kennedy King Establishment Act of 2018),*
 21 *which would designate Martin Luther King Jr. Park a National*
 22 *Historic Site and make it a part of the National Park Service.*
 23 *Representative Susan Brooks has signed on to the bill as a*
 24 *co-sponsor, along with the entire Indiana Congressional*
 25 *delegation. Representative John Lewis and other members of*
 26 *the Congressional Black Caucus also have signed on as*
 27 *co-authors of the bill. Finally, Representative Joseph P.*
 28 *Kennedy III has signed on as a co-sponsor, along with other*
 29 *members of Congress. Representative Kennedy is the grandson*
 30 *of the late Senator Robert F. "Bobby" Kennedy; and*

31 *Whereas, The remarks given by Senator Kennedy on April 4,*
 32 *1968, will live on in the memory of all the people in the park*
 33 *that spring evening and in the minds of everyone who has ever*
 34 *heard them: Therefore,*

35 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives*
 36 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*
 37 *the Senate concurring:*

38 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly



1 commemorates the memory of one of the greatest speeches in
2 modern times and supports the designation of the park where
3 Senator Kennedy delivered his remarks as a National Historic
4 Site.

5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to
7 Representative Andre Carson.

