

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 19 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY GAINNEY, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, ISAACSON, HOHENSTEIN, GUENST, PICKETT, SANCHEZ, KINSEY, SAMUELSON, PISCIOTTANO, McNEILL, FREEMAN, BURGOS, LONGIETTI, CONKLIN, NEILSON, BURNS, A. DAVIS, MENTZER, KIRKLAND, DRISCOLL, PASHINSKI, O'MARA, WEBSTER, JOZWIAK, CIRESI, SCHWEYER, McCLINTON, WARREN AND SAINATO, JANUARY 22, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 22, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and  
 2 recognizing the week of January 18 through 24, 2021, 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, Dr. King received his doctorate from Boston  
 11 University in 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  
 16 the buses; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout this and later civil rights protests, Dr.

1 King espoused the philosophy of nonviolent passive resistance  
2 and civil disobedience; and

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

7 WHEREAS, During the following years, Dr. King was frequently  
8 arrested, beaten, jailed and threatened with violence as a  
9 result of his protest activities; and

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

13 WHEREAS, His famous march on Washington, DC, in 1963  
14 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial at which he  
15 gave his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech; and

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

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

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

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

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life  
28 and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and recognize the  
29 week of January 18 through 24, 2021, as "Martin Luther King,  
30 Jr., Week of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
2 Pennsylvanians to be mindful of the spirit and work of Dr.  
3 Martin Luther King, Jr., and remember his commitment to peaceful  
4 protest and his dedication to equality and equal protection for  
5 all mankind on the designated week of his remembrance, January  
6 18 through 24, 2021, and throughout the year.