

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 839

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION relative to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday.

WHEREAS, legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday to mark the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, first observed in 1986, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day honors one of America's greatest heroes, who once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" ; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress answered this question by passing the King Holiday and Service Act, which designated the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) federal holiday as a national day of service; and

WHEREAS, taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service: "a day on, not a day off"; and

WHEREAS, the MLK Day of Service encourages Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems; and

WHEREAS, the MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community"; and

WHEREAS, participation in the MLK Day of Service has grown steadily over the past twenty-five years, with hundreds of thousands of Americans each year engaging in projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and reflecting on Dr. King's life and teachings; and

WHEREAS, many of the projects started on MLK Day continue to engage volunteers beyond the holiday and impact the community year-round; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-five years, the MLK Day of Service has helped Americans translate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into public service that benefits their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the MLK Day of Service grows every year, but many people are still unaware of the service component of the holiday; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to increase public awareness of this worthy event on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday as a national day of service and salute our fellow Americans who come together on the MLK Day of Service to serve their neighbors and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.