

Senate Resolution 500

By: Senators Thomas of the 10th, Walker of the 22nd, Butler of the 55th, James of the 35th, Harbison of the 15th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for the construction of a national memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther
2 King, Jr. in Washington, D.C., and urging the donation of granite from the State of Georgia
3 for use in the construction of such memorial; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has approved legislation which would allow the
5 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the nation's oldest black fraternity, to build a memorial
6 honoring Alpha brother Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the heart of Washington, D.C.; and

7 WHEREAS, President Clinton signed the legislation in June of 1999, and, since that time,
8 architects have been selected to design and construct the memorial, and fundraising activities
9 geared towards funding its completion have been ongoing; and

10 WHEREAS, the King Memorial, which will see Georgia's own illustrious native son occupy
11 a place of honor among memorials honoring the nation's most revered heros, Presidents
12 George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, will
13 be placed between the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol on the Mall or between
14 Capitol Hill and R.F.K. Stadium; and

15 WHEREAS, the memorial will be constructed out of granite; and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is a major supplier of granite worldwide, and Elberton,
17 Georgia, known as the "Granite Capital of the World," is home to the largest trade
18 association of granite quarriers and manufacturers; and

19 WHEREAS, it would be altogether fitting and most appropriate if the granite used to
20 construct a national memorial honoring Georgia's own Martin Luther King, Jr. were Georgia
21 granite donated on behalf of the citizens of this state as a reflection of our enormous
22 appreciation and support for this great honor.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the
2 members of this body express their full support for the construction of a memorial honoring
3 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be constructed in our nation's capital as a memorial to his
4 incalculable contributions to American society and further express their most fervent desire
5 that the granite used to construct such memorial be granite mined in Georgia and donated
6 gratuitously for such purpose on behalf of the entire State of Georgia.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
8 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Governor Roy Barnes and the Elberton
9 Granite Association.