

Senate Resolution 177

By: Senators James of the 35th, Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Capitol Arts Standards Commission to authorize the placement of a portrait
2 of Mrs. Coretta Scott King on the second floor of the state capitol building alongside the
3 portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott was born on April 27, 1927, in Heiberger, Perry County,
5 Alabama, near Marion. She was the second of three children born to Obediah Scott, an
6 enterprising entrepreneur, and Bernice McMurray Scott; and in 1945, she enrolled at Antioch
7 College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, pursuing majors in music and education; and

8 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1953, Coretta Scott married Martin Luther King, Jr., with the
9 Reverend King, Sr., officiating at the wedding ceremony. Over the next ten years, the couple
10 welcomed four children into their family: Yolanda Denise, November 17, 1955, Martin
11 Luther III, October 23, 1957, Dexter Scott, January 30, 1961, and Bernice Albertine, March
12 28, 1963; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1956, when her first child was not even a year old, Mrs. King stood by her
14 husband's side as the Montgomery bus boycott began, and never did her support and
15 conviction waver, not when her house was bombed and not when her husband was jailed,
16 assaulted, and murdered for his commitment to human rights. She shared her husband's
17 steadfast commitment to seek peace and justice through nonviolent action and played a
18 leading role in advocating social change across the nation and throughout the world during
19 his lifetime and thereafter; and she continued to be a prominent voice in maintaining the
20 enduring legacy of her husband's dreams to the moment of her death; and

21 WHEREAS, while Dr. King is an undisputed hero of the movement, excelling in the
22 sincerity of his conviction, and his unwillingness to compromise in matters of nonviolence,
23 Mrs. King is a hero in her own right. Sadly, even though she has received many honors,
24 most "mainstream" Americans do not know of her accomplishments, her convictions, and
25 her tireless work on behalf of a free and equal society.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 encourage the Capitol Arts Standards Commission to authorize the placement of a portrait
28 of Mrs. Coretta Scott King on the second floor of the state capitol building alongside the
29 portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Capitol Arts
32 Standards Commission.