

House Resolution 1804

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Scott of the 76th, Williams of the 168th, McClain of the 100th, Smyre of the 135th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the 50th anniversary of his
2 assassination; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on April 4, 1968, the State of Georgia lost one of its most distinguished and
4 iconic citizens with the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in the City of Atlanta on January 15,
6 1929, a beloved son of Martin Luther and Alberta Williams King; his childhood home,
7 surrounding area, and boyhood church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, would eventually be
8 preserved for history as Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. King would grow up in the city and receive his undergraduate degree in
10 sociology from the prestigious Morehouse College before leaving the state to attend
11 seminary, earn his doctorate, and eventually begin his groundbreaking tenure as the pastor
12 of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, a courageous and decent man, Dr. King refused to accept as normal the
14 disenfranchisement, injustice, and inequality he saw in the world around him; and his
15 passionate opposition to hatred and discrimination would fuel his rise to national prominence
16 as leader of the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. King, with the help of fellow Civil Rights Movement leaders, social justice
18 organizations, and millions of ordinary people, led a movement that truly changed the course
19 of history for the better by bringing about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which
20 banned segregation and discrimination in employment; the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which
21 outlawed measures and practices disenfranchising African American voters in the south; and
22 the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which banned discrimination in housing; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. King's life ended on April 4, 1968, when he was assassinated by a white
24 supremacist gunman; he would be laid to rest on April 9 in Atlanta, and Coretta Scott King
25 would found the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change the following
26 summer to ensure that his mission of peace and justice could live on; and

27 WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, popularly
28 known as The King Center, is funded by the State of Georgia and continues Dr. King's legacy
29 to this day through its services as both a traditional memorial and programmatic nonprofit;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, the King Center, with the help of other organizations and leaders, is honoring
32 Dr. King's memory on the 50th anniversary of his passing by hosting a series of events from
33 April 4 through 9 that will be known as MLK 50 Forward, in which participants will share
34 and discuss ideas through which Dr. King's legacy of progress can continue in the 50 years
35 to come; and

36 WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Advisory Council recently organized and instituted
37 the construction of a statue at the Georgia capitol of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in honor of
38 his magnificent contributions to the State of Georgia; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the father to four extraordinary children, the
40 late Yolanda Denise King, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott King, and Reverend Bernice
41 Albertine King, and the grandfather to the wonderful Yolanda Renee King; and

42 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this esteemable titan of Georgia's past,
43 present, and future be appropriately recognized.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King,
46 Jr., on the 50th anniversary of his assassination and express their deepest respect for his
47 legacy of peace, equality, and justice.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Dr.
50 King's family, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the public,
51 and the press.