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DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY".

1 WHEREAS, renowned civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15,
2 1929; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1948, Dr. King received his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College; in
4 1951, his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary, and his doctorate in systematic theology from
5 Boston University; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. King married Coretta Scott on June 18, 1953; and

7 WHEREAS, five days after Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply with segregation on buses in Montgomery,
8 on December 5, 1955, Dr. King was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Montgomery
9 Bus Boycott began; and

10 WHEREAS, during the boycott, Dr. King gained national prominence as an exceptional leader, and on December
11 20, 1956, the United States Supreme Court declared Alabama's segregation law unconstitutional and Montgomery buses
12 were desegregated; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1963, Dr. King and his staff organized mass demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama, where
14 Black demonstrators encountered brutality by police using police dogs and firehoses; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28, 1963, at the March on
16 Washington for Jobs and Freedom in front of over 200,000 demonstrators; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1964, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, in recognition of his work to fight
18 for the civil rights of African Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped change public policy from segregation to
20 integration, resulting in the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating racial segregation in the south

21 known as the Jim Crow Laws and leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
22 and other antidiscrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. King dramatically influenced the perspective and worldview of his contemporaries and
24 subsequent generations; and

25 WHEREAS, on April 3, 1968, Dr. King delivered his final speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," at the Mason
26 Temple Church of God in Christ, in Memphis, Tennessee, in which he advocated on behalf of striking sanitation workers,
27 and urged the nation to live up to its promises of freedom; and

28 WHEREAS, on the following day, April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of the
29 Lorraine Motel; and

30 WHEREAS, January 20, 1986, marked the first observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day represents liberation from cruelty and injustice for many African
32 Americans and other minority groups; and

33 WHEREAS, the notion of liberty from cruelty and injustice is a concept that resonates with all marginalized
34 groups, be they Indigenous, Latin American, Asian American, deaf, blind, disabled, LGBTQ+, poor, or other; and

35 WHEREAS, this year, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed on January 16, 2023.

36 NOW, THEREFORE:

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
38 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly recognizes and honors the leadership, achievements, and
39 sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and urges all citizens of the First State to participate fittingly in the observance of
40 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 16, 2023.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution honors and recognizes the leadership, achievements, and sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and urges all citizens of the First State to participate fittingly in the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 16, 2023.

Author: Senator Lockman