

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 308

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 15, 2006, marked the 77th anniversary of the
2 birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

3 WHEREAS, A federal holiday commemorating Dr. King's birth was
4 created by the U.S. Congress in 1983, in recognition of Dr. King's
5 achievements and the eloquent voice that he gave to the aspirations
6 of African Americans; this holiday was first observed in 1986 and
7 was observed in all 50 states for the first time in 1993; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. King rose to national prominence during the
9 mid-1950s, when he served as a spiritual and moral leader of the
10 historic bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama; a watershed event, the
11 boycott ultimately led to the banning, in 1955, of segregation in
12 local and interstate travel in the United States and simultaneously
13 helped to launch the civil rights movement; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King joined with other ministers to
15 found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an
16 organization that continues to fight for the civil and human rights
17 of all Americans, regardless of race or economic status; and

18 WHEREAS, Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Dr. King
19 accepted the honor not only for himself but also on behalf of all
20 who devote themselves to nonviolence and who work against racial
21 injustice; and

22 WHEREAS, Two months before his assassination, Dr. King
23 delivered a sermon titled "The Drum Major Instinct" at Ebenezer
24 Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia; in his text, he said that he

1 wished to be remembered as a drum major for justice, peace, and
2 service to others; and

3 WHEREAS, Appropriately, the theme of Martin Luther King, Jr.,
4 Day is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off"; on
5 January 13, 2006, in an observance that reflected that vigorous
6 spirit of commitment, the United States Army Medical Command at
7 Fort Sam Houston commemorated the birth, life, and dreams of this
8 great American hero; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
11 of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his courage and his vision, and
12 commend all individuals who take a stand for freedom, equality, and
13 human dignity.