

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 73

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens throughout Texas and across the country are
2 celebrating the life of legendary civil rights leader Dr. Martin
3 Luther King, Jr., on January 15, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, This day also marks the 20th anniversary of the San
5 Antonio MLK March, an event that encourages area Texans to take an
6 active role in remembering the myriad achievements of the famed
7 orator, clergyman, and humanitarian; and

8 WHEREAS, Born on January 15, 1929, Dr. King earned degrees
9 from Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary, and Boston
10 University before becoming pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
11 in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954; and

12 WHEREAS, One of Dr. King's most memorable accomplishments
13 during the early years of his pastorate was organizing the bus
14 boycott in Montgomery, which eventually led the U.S. Supreme Court
15 to declare unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on
16 buses; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King was elected president of the
18 Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and it was through that
19 organization that much of his visionary platform for the promotion
20 of civil rights emerged; the next 11 years of his life were
21 dedicated to building his "coalition of conscience," a movement
22 that captured the nation's attention and instigated positive change
23 in the lives of countless Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. King is perhaps best remembered for his historic

1 "I Have a Dream" speech, which galvanized civil rights supporters
2 and helped to begin to bridge the gap between races in the United
3 States; and

4 WHEREAS, Steadfast in his commitment to fighting injustice
5 through nonviolent protest, this inspirational leader was awarded
6 the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, becoming the youngest person to
7 receive the honor; and

8 WHEREAS, The commemoration of Dr. King's life provides a
9 welcome opportunity to celebrate his legacy and to reaffirm our
10 commitment to the worthy ideals he sought to advance during his
11 lifetime; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on
14 January 15, 2007, and recognize the 20th anniversary of the San
15 Antonio MLK March.