

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 121

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 15, 2009, marks the 80th anniversary of the
2 birth of the great civil rights leader and humanitarian Dr. Martin
3 Luther King, Jr.; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. King joined the NAACP at an early age, and by
5 1954 he held a seat on the organization's executive committee; he
6 rose to national prominence in 1955-1956, when he served as a
7 spiritual and moral leader of the historic bus boycott in
8 Montgomery, Alabama; a watershed event, the boycott led to the
9 banning of segregation in local and interstate travel in the United
10 States and simultaneously helped to launch the civil rights
11 movement; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King and a number of other ministers
13 founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; a leading
14 civil rights organization, the SCLC coordinated mass protest
15 campaigns and voter registration drives across the South; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. King served as president of the SCLC from its
17 inception until his death on April 4, 1968; during those tumultuous
18 years, he wrote five books and numerous articles, traveled more
19 than six million miles, and spoke at over 2,500 events; frequently
20 jailed for peaceful protest, he endured numerous personal threats
21 and attacks over the course of his career; and

22 WHEREAS, In recognition of his immeasurable influence and
23 moral stature, *Time* magazine named Dr. King its Man of the Year in
24 1963, and in 1964, at the age of 35, he was awarded the Nobel Prize

1 for Peace; he donated the money that accompanied the prize, more
2 than \$54,000, to further the civil rights movement; and

3 WHEREAS, A federal holiday commemorating Dr. King's birth was
4 created by the U.S. Congress in 1983; this holiday was first
5 observed in 1986 and was observed in all 50 states for the first
6 time in 1993; and

7 WHEREAS, Through his courageous, unflinching pursuit of
8 social and economic justice, Dr. King helped to shatter a deeply
9 entrenched system of second-class citizenship and bring to further
10 fruition this country's liberating ideals of freedom, equality, and
11 human dignity; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
14 and call on all Texans to join in carrying forward his dream of a
15 more just, tolerant, and inclusive society.