

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 117

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 15, 2011, marks the 82nd 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, The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., often  
4 called "Martin Luther King Day," became a federal holiday when  
5 President Ronald Reagan signed historic legislation in 1983, and  
6 the holiday was formally observed for the first time on January 20,  
7 1986; and

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

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
15 Legislature hereby honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
16 and call on all Texans to join in carrying forward his dream of a  
17 more just, tolerant, and inclusive society.