

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 99

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 15, 2017, marks the 88th 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; an  
14 influential civil rights organization, the SCLC coordinated mass  
15 protest campaigns and voter registration drives across the South;  
16 and

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

23 WHEREAS, In recognition of his immeasurable influence and  
24 moral stature, *Time* magazine named Dr. King its Man of the Year in

1 1963, and in 1964, at the age of 35, he was awarded the Nobel Prize  
2 for Peace; he donated the money that accompanied the prize, more  
3 than \$54,000, to further the civil rights movement; and

4 WHEREAS, The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became a  
5 federal holiday when President Ronald Reagan signed historic  
6 legislation in 1983, and the holiday was formally observed for the  
7 first time on January 20, 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 highlight, here  
11 in this country and across the globe, the liberating ideals of  
12 freedom, equality, and human dignity; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and  
15 call on all Texans to join in carrying forward his dream of a more  
16 just, tolerant, and inclusive society.