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By:  Turner of Tarrant H.R. No. 113

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Grand Prairie gather each year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to celebrate the important legacy of the civil rights leader at a parade sponsored by the Grand Prairie NAACP, the City of Grand Prairie Parks, Arts & Recreation Department, and the Grand Prairie Police Department; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, the King Holiday Bill was signed into law, making the third Monday in January a federal holiday; the observance later became the only federal holiday also designated as a national day of service with the signing of legislation to encourage Americans to follow Dr. King's example by working together to improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, The son of a Baptist minister, Martin Luther King Jr. earned his doctoral degree in theology; in 1955, he organized the Montgomery bus boycott, the first major protest of the civil rights movement, and he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the cause; he led marches across the South to direct America's attention to injustice and oppression, and although physical attacks were a constant threat, he upheld the powerful principle of nonviolent civil disobedience; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's soaring oratory inspired people across the country, and in 1963, at the massive March on Washington, he delivered an address for the ages, outlining his vision of a better America as the words "I have a dream" rang out over the crowd and into history; the following year brought the ratification of the 24th Amendment, which abolished the poll tax, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination in employment and education and outlawed segregation in public facilities; that October, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, In observing this holiday, we focus not only on the legacy of Dr. King, but also on the need to continue his work in behalf of justice, peace, and equal rights for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the annual Grand Prairie Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade and extend to the organizers and participants sincere appreciation for their contributions.