

Introduced by Senators Mitchell and Hall

January 12, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 9—Relative to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

1 WHEREAS, One hundred years after the Emancipation
2 Proclamation, on August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
3 and others organized hundreds of thousands of blacks and whites,
4 Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, in a march to the
5 Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC where Dr. King made his
6 famous “I Have a Dream” speech announcing that the days of
7 segregation in the United States were numbered; and
8 WHEREAS, Monday, January 19, 2015, marks the 29th national
9 celebration of the national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
10 and his fight for civil and human rights; and
11 WHEREAS, On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Dr. Martin Luther
12 King, Jr. would have been 86 years of age; and
13 WHEREAS, On April 10, 1970, California became the first
14 state to pass legislation making Dr. King’s birthday a school
15 holiday and, subsequently, a statewide holiday; and
16 WHEREAS, Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan)
17 submitted the first legislation for a national Martin Luther King,
18 Jr. holiday, which was signed into law by President Ronald Wilson
19 Reagan, on November 2, 1983; and
20 WHEREAS, January 20, 1986, marked the first observance of
21 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and
22 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
23 change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in
24 the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating
25 racial segregation in the South known as the “Jim Crow Laws,”
26 thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the

1 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed
2 at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped
4 change public policy from legal and socially acceptable
5 discrimination and segregation to an open and accessible policy
6 of racial integration leading to equal participation and access to
7 primary and higher education, housing, employment, transportation,
8 federal, state, and local governmental elections, and other aspects
9 of public policy relating to human rights; and

10 WHEREAS, These public policy changes at the national level
11 influenced many changes in California that culminated in the
12 passage of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Rumford Fair
13 Housing Act, in open enrollment and access to higher education
14 specifically with respect to the California State University and the
15 University of California, and in employment and labor laws,
16 transportation policy, election laws, and other aspects of public
17 policy; and

18 WHEREAS, The unfinished business of Dr. King and the Civil
19 Rights Movement was and is the plight of the poor, the fight against
20 war and for worldwide peace, and the struggle for a fair, equitable,
21 and sensible economic system; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement noted
23 that a majority of Americans lived below the poverty line, and that
24 the huge income gaps between rich and poor called for “changes
25 in the structure of our society”; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. King, in the last months of his life, began
27 organizing a Poor People’s Campaign to, among other things,
28 assemble “a multiracial army of the poor that would descend on
29 Washington—engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the
30 Capitol, if need be—until Congress enacted a poor people’s bill
31 of rights”; and

32 WHEREAS, All of the aforementioned concerns and more
33 continue to be the quest of civil and human rights organizations
34 in the great State of California, across America, and throughout
35 the world; and

36 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought to change public
37 policy from the “self-inflicted wound of segregation to the
38 pluralistic diverse democracy” we continue to construct today; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights
2 Movement serve as a model for principled leadership and
3 forward-thinking, bipartisan public policy; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That Monday,
5 January 19, 2015, be observed as the official memorial of Dr.
6 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth and his work in the Civil Rights
7 Movement; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That this day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the
9 Civil Rights Movement be commemorated for their help in
10 changing public policy from segregation to integration, for the
11 betterment of this, the great State of California and these United
12 States of America; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages all Americans to pay
14 tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through
15 participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King,
16 Jr. Day; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the inherent value of
18 community service and volunteerism in the creation of a civil
19 society and as a means of nonviolent community progress
20 consistent with the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and be
21 it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the benefits of the
23 collaborative work by many organizations that promote, facilitate,
24 and carry out needed service projects nationwide; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages its members and
26 colleagues to urge their constituents to participate in community
27 service projects; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Senate acknowledges that, by serving one's
29 country, one's community, and one's neighbor, our nation makes
30 progress in civility, equality, and unity consistent with the values
31 and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
33 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.