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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY STREET, JANUARY 7, 2020

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 7, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 13 through 19, 2020, as "Dr.  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., born January 15, 1929, in  
4 Atlanta, Georgia, followed in his father's and grandfather's  
5 footsteps by becoming a Baptist minister after graduation from  
6 Morehouse College in 1948 and Crozer Theological Seminary in  
7 1951; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. King received his doctorate from Boston  
9 University in 1955; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1955, as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist  
11 Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King organized a boycott of  
12 the city's segregated busing system, which led to a United  
13 States Supreme Court decision forcing desegregation of the  
14 buses; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout this and later civil rights protests, Dr.  
16 King espoused the philosophy of nonviolent passive resistance  
17 and civil disobedience; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1957, Dr. King moved back to Atlanta to join his

1 father as associate pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church and  
2 organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight  
3 segregation and discrimination throughout the South; and

4 WHEREAS, During the following years, Dr. King was frequently  
5 arrested, beaten, jailed and threatened with violence as a  
6 result of his protest activities; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. King led a massive voter registration drive in  
8 Selma, Alabama, resulting in the famous freedom march to  
9 Montgomery, the state capital; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. King's famous march on Washington, DC, in 1963  
11 culminated in a great rally at the Lincoln Memorial where he  
12 gave his immortal "I have a dream" speech; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. King's efforts resulted in enactment of the  
14 Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. King's personal sacrifices and determined  
16 leadership of the civil rights movement in the United States  
17 were formally recognized in 1964 when he received the Nobel  
18 Peace Prize; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 while in Memphis,  
20 Tennessee, to organize a Poor People's Campaign; and

21 WHEREAS, The third Monday of January has been designated as a  
22 national holiday in order to give all Americans an opportunity  
23 to reflect upon the profound impact Dr. King has had on life in  
24 the United States; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of January 13  
26 through 19, 2020, as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week"  
27 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all Pennsylvanians to be  
29 mindful of the spirit and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
30 and remember his commitment to peace and his dedication to

- 1 equality for all human beings on the designated week of his
- 2 remembrance and throughout the year.