

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

SENATE

RESOLUTION 26

By: Schulz and Matthews

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution celebrating and honoring the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and observing the 50th anniversary of his assassination.

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2018, all eyes will turn to Memphis, Tennessee to remember the tragic event that occurred 50 years ago and the legacy left by our nation's greatest peacemaker; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. An American Baptist minister and activist, he became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 through 1968; and

WHEREAS, during his short life, Martin Luther King, Jr. offered courageous, eloquent and inspiring leadership that transformed the United States and encouraged people around the world; and

WHEREAS, as the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King led the bus boycott of 1955 that led to an end of bus segregation. In 1957, he became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where he

1 broadened his crusade against racial segregation through peaceful,  
2 non-violent efforts. In 1963, he led a march on Washington and  
3 delivered his memorable "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the  
4 Lincoln Memorial; and

5 WHEREAS, the following year, Congress enacted the Civil Rights  
6 Act of 1964, to end racial segregation and Dr. King was awarded the  
7 Nobel Peace Prize; and

8 WHEREAS, he continued his crusade, campaigning for voting  
9 rights, equal opportunity, better jobs, fair wages, decent housing  
10 and quality education for African-Americans, females and all  
11 minorities; and

12 WHEREAS, he was tragically assassinated on April 4, 1968; and

13 WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a  
14 holiday in numerous cities and states beginning in 1971, and as a  
15 U.S. federal holiday in 1986 so that his legacy and spirit will  
16 never be forgotten.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
18 OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

19 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates and honors the life  
20 and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

21 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate humbly observes the 50th  
22 anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination.

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