

CHAPTER 1**(SJR 16)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION naming Interstate 65 in Jefferson County in honor and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We pause to honor the memory of one of the greatest
humanitarians of this century, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHEREAS, born on Tuesday, January 15, 1929, at his family's home in Atlanta, Georgia, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the second child but first son born to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and Alberta Williams King; and

WHEREAS, a brilliant child, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades, and due to his high scores on college entrance examinations, he entered Morehouse College at the age of fifteen without formally graduating from high school; and

WHEREAS, graduating from Morehouse College in 1948 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 1951, while also taking classes at the University of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1951 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began doctoral studies in Systematic Theology at Boston University and he was awarded his Ph.D. degree in 1955, all the while studying at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 1953, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., married his soul mate Coretta Scott; and

WHEREAS, between November 17, 1955, and March 28, 1963, Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., became the proud parents of four children, Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., actually entered the ministry and was ordained in February 1948 at the age of nineteen at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from Boston University, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was called to be the Pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, while shepherding the flock of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was thrust into the firestorm of hatred that existed throughout America, and which was especially violent in the southern states, by being one of the pivotal figures who started what became known throughout the world as the "Civil Rights Movement" when he was elected President of the Montgomery, Alabama, Improvement Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spearheaded the Montgomery Improvement Association's famous boycott of the city's bus system, a boycott that lasted 381 days at great personal sacrifice, hardship, and persecution to the many citizens who stood behind Dr. King's dream of equality for all men and women, regardless of the color of their skin or their station in life; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery bus boycott resulted in judicial systems across the nation beginning to strike down segregationist legislation as unconstitutional, and it also vaulted the civil rights movement, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., into the forefront of American politics and social debate; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., resigned as pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to return to Atlanta to spearhead the civil rights work of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., received the most prestigious award bestowed by the international community when at the age of 35 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man, second American, and only the third black man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, a cowardly assassin's bullet ended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life on April 4, 1968, while he was in Memphis, Tennessee, to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions; however, the bullet that robbed Dr. King of his life could never silence his message of love, faith, truth, peace, and brotherhood for all the people of the earth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., remains one of the most recognized individuals of this century, and during his brief life, in addition to the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, he received the following awards: in 1957 he was selected as one of the ten most outstanding personalities of the year by Time Magazine, was listed in Who's Who in America, received the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Spingarn Medal, and received

the Russwurm Award from the National Newspaper Publishers; in 1958 he received the Second Annual Achievement Award from the Guardian Association of the New York Police Department; in 1959 he was selected as one of the sixteen world leaders who contributed most to the advancement of freedom during 1959 by Ling Magazine of New Delhi, India; in 1963 Dr. King was named Time Magazine's "Man of the Year," and was named "American of the Decade," by the Laundry, Dry Cleaning, and Die Workers International Union; in 1964 in addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King received the John Dewey Award from the United Federation of Teachers and the John F. Kennedy Award from the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago; in 1968 he was presented posthumously the Marcus Garvey Prize for Human Rights by the Jamaican Government and the Rosa L. Parks award by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and he received the Aims Field-Wolf Award for his book *Stride Toward Freedom*; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his work throughout the world, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was bestowed the following honorary degrees: Doctor of Humane Letters, Morehouse College; Doctor of Laws, Howard University; Doctor of Divinity, Chicago Theological Seminary; Doctor of Laws, Morgan State University; Doctor of Humanities, Central State University; Doctor of Divinity, Boston University; Doctor of Laws, Lincoln University; Doctor of Laws, University of Bridgeport; Doctor of Civil Laws, Bard College; Doctor of Letters, Keuka College; Doctor of Divinity, Wesleyan College; Doctor of Laws, Jewish Theological Seminary; Doctor of Laws, Yale University; Doctor of Divinity, Springfield College; Doctor of Laws, Hofstra University; Doctor of Humane Letters, Oberlin College; Doctor of Social Science, Amsterdam Free University; Doctor of Divinity, St. Peter's College; Doctor of Civil Law, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne; and Doctor of Laws, Grinnell College; and

WHEREAS, in addition to raising his family, ministering to his church family, working with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and his many national and international activities for peace and justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote six books and numerous articles; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s skills as an orator helped raise the consciousness of not only this nation, but the entire world, during several of his most famous speeches including his "I have a dream" speech in 1963 during the civil rights movement March on Washington, his 1964 acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, and his final sermon "I have been to the Mountaintop" given the day before his death in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is entombed on Freedom Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia -- a 23-acre site that was listed as a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1977, and made a National Historic Site on October 10, 1980; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 1986, following passage of Public Law 98-144, America paid final homage to this great American by proclaiming the third Monday in January of each year a public holiday in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The members of the General Assembly, both individually and collectively, hail Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his sacrifices and devotion to equality and justice for every citizen of every nation.

Section 2. The Commonwealth of Kentucky wants to add to the many accolades Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has received by naming one of the busiest highways in the state in his memory.

Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet is directed to name Interstate 65 in Jefferson County the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Expressway."

Section 4. The Transportation Cabinet shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect signs at the Kentucky/Indiana state line, the Jefferson County/Bullitt County line, and at intervals in between that read "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Expressway."

Approved March 2, 2007