

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Blackwell,
Burton, Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson
(32nd), Norwood, Simmons (12th), Simmons
(13th), Witherspoon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 647

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
2 OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON APRIL 4,
3 1968.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on
5 April 4, 1968, at Memphis' Lorraine Motel, which is now the home
6 of the National Civil Rights Museum; and

7 WHEREAS, given the significance of the 50th Anniversary of
8 Dr. King's assassination approaching April 4, 2018, there is no
9 doubt that the State of Mississippi will be in the national
10 spotlight. In remembrance of Dr. King's national and global
11 impact, many organizations throughout the nation are planning
12 community programs and events. As a part of this effort, the
13 Mississippi Civil Rights Museum will also host several programs.
14 These commemoration events will provide a tremendous opportunity
15 for the State of Mississippi to partner strategically, provide a
16 venue for meaningful community dialogue and bring significant
17 visibility to our state; and



18 WHEREAS, as Dr. King deliberately coordinated his efforts
19 during the Civil Rights Movement, he consistently worked to
20 improve the standing of African-Americans, females and all
21 minorities in six specific areas: poverty, wage discrimination,
22 housing, education, justice and peace. In a time when many
23 minorities were born into a cycle of poverty due to overt racism
24 and wage discrimination in the workplace, families would often
25 have few, if any, opportunities to improve their quality of lives.
26 As a result, minorities received substandard education and lived
27 in poor conditions. Dr. King worked to change that through
28 speeches, rallies, marches and advocacy for legislation. He
29 collaborated with other Civil Rights leaders to activate change
30 and make stands for the oppressed. The Poor People's Campaign
31 held firm to the movement's commitment to nonviolence. Dr. King
32 originally wanted the Poor People's Campaign to start in Quitman
33 County, Mississippi, because of the intense and visible economic
34 disparity there; and

35 WHEREAS, each generation looks at history from a different
36 perspective. As we move into the 21st Century, it is incumbent
37 upon us to realize that, while Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and
38 Coretta Scott King were global, influential leaders who answered
39 divine calls to fulfill great assignments, we too have assignments
40 to complete. Together we can use our skills to build the
41 community and win for humanity. Human progress is neither
42 automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice



43 requires sacrifice, the tireless exertions and passionate concern
44 of dedicated individuals such as Dr. King and Medger Evers; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great reverence that the State of
46 Mississippi join the global commemoration of the 50th Anniversary
47 of Dr. King's assassination:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the assassination
51 of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which occurred on April 4, 1968.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage the Mississippi
53 Civil Rights Museum to coordinate appropriate events and
54 educational programs to bring attention to this important historic
55 landmark.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
57 to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and made available to the
58 Capitol Press Corps.

