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SR-67 (2019-2020)

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ENROLLED JANUARY 21, 2020

PASSED IN SENATE JANUARY 17, 2020

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 67

Introduced by Senator Bradford
(Coauthor: Senator Mitchell)

January 08, 2020

Relative to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 67, Bradford.

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, January 15, 2020, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have been 91 years of age; and

WHEREAS, On April 10, 1970, California became the first state to pass legislation making Dr. King's birthday a school holiday and, subsequently, a statewide holiday; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, for his dynamic leadership of the Civil Rights Movement and steadfast commitment to achieving racial justice through nonviolent action. He pledged the prize money to the movement's continued development. At the age of 35, Dr. King became the youngest man, and only the second African American, to receive the prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating racial segregation in the South, known as the "Jim Crow Laws," thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, now effective for 56 years, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, in the last months of his life, began organizing a Poor People's Campaign to, among other things, assemble "a multiracial army of the poor that would descend on Washington—engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the Capitol, if need be—until Congress enacted a poor people's bill of rights," and 2018 marked 50th anniversary of this campaign; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to fighting segregation and injustice by nonviolent means and is an outstanding example of courageous leadership in the face of unrelenting violence and harassment by individuals and governmental institutions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's assassination 52 years ago changed America as we continue to work toward racial equality, economic justice, and peace; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a source of inspiration for all Americans; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Senate honors the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and be it further

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