

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2007-4604, by Representative Barlow

WHEREAS, Today, January 15, 2007, communities and neighborhoods all across our state and nation remember, celebrate, and honor the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's commitment to nonviolence, based in great part upon the life-teachings of Mohandas Gandhi, was a model of selflessness and sacrifices made so that later generations might live freer and fuller, and might more nearly live in accord with their possibilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia; and on June 18, 1953, he and Coretta Scott were married in Marion, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, After Dr. King was so violently taken from us on April 4, 1968, Coretta Scott King continued her life in the very same vein of caring and compassion until she passed on January 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advanced his goals and principles with determination, faith, dignity, and courage in the face of life-threatening opposition; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was jailed several times throughout his struggle to bring to all people the opportunity to live free of racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination and violence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King raised the consciousness of the nation and of our state to fundamental injustices and inequalities in American society, and moved us forward on the long and unfinished road to racial harmony and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fervently advocated nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in America, and he was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's death, an awful loss for our nation and our world, was a particular loss for our own state of Washington in which our largest county is named to honor this great American hero; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was forever celebrated when the Congress of the United States established a permanent federal holiday to commemorate the date of his birth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's work and legacy were further recognized by the state of Washington, which honors his remembrance as a state holiday; and

WHEREAS, There is still much work to be done in achieving full reconciliation among America's racial, social, and ethnic communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, on behalf of the people of our state, recognize the importance of the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the civil society and freedoms of the United States of America and of the state of Washington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on the people of the state of Washington to study, reflect on, and celebrate Dr. King's life and ideals in order to fulfill his dream of civil and human rights for all people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor his memory by urging all the citizens of our state to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a day of service - a day on, not a day off.