



HR0188

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a prominent American
3 leader of the African-American civil rights movement and Nobel
4 Peace Prize laureate, was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in
5 Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968; and

6 WHEREAS, In March of 1968, Dr. King went to Memphis in
7 support of striking African-American sanitation workers; the
8 workers had staged a walkout on February 11, 1968, to protest
9 unequal wages and working conditions; at the time, the city of
10 Memphis paid black workers significantly lower wages than
11 whites; and

12 WHEREAS, At 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 1968, while he
13 was standing on the motel's second floor balcony, Dr. King was
14 struck by a single .30 bullet fired from a Remington 760
15 Gamemaster; Reverend Ralph Abernathy, who was staying with Dr.
16 King at the motel, heard the shot from inside the motel room
17 and ran to the balcony to find Dr. King on the floor; Dr. King
18 was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital, where doctors pronounced
19 him dead at 7:05 p.m.; and

20 WHEREAS, Despite the urging of many national leaders, news
21 of the assassination led to a nationwide wave of riots in more
22 than 100 cities, including Washington, D.C. and Baltimore,

1 Maryland; after the assassination, the city of Memphis quickly
2 settled the strike, on favorable terms to the sanitation
3 workers; and

4 WHEREAS, U.S. President Lyndon Johnson later declared a
5 national day of mourning for the slain civil rights leader; his
6 funeral was held on April 9, 1968 and over 300,000 people
7 attended, paying their final respects to the late Dr. King; and

8 WHEREAS, On June 10, 1968, James Earl Ray, a fugitive from
9 the Missouri State Penitentiary, was arrested in London,
10 extradited to the United States, and charged with the crime; on
11 March 10, 1969, Ray entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced
12 to 99 years in the Tennessee state penitentiary; therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we remember this important day in history and reflect on the
17 life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who
18 worked towards changing attitudes without violence, and who
19 brought true change upon this nation.