

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 40

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex)

Assemblyman L. HARVEY SMITH

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHEILA Y. OLIVER

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ELEASE EVANS

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Commemorates 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's visit to New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2008)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** commemorating the 40th anniversary
2 of Dr. Martin Luther King’s visit to the New Jersey cities of
3 Newark, Paterson, Orange and Jersey City.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, March 27, 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin
6 Luther King’s visit to the New Jersey cities of Newark, Paterson,
7 Orange and Jersey City seeking to rally support for the “Poor
8 People’s Campaign” in Washington, D.C.; and
9 **WHEREAS**, As a leader of the civil rights movement in the United
10 States, Dr. King dedicated his life to the quest, through nonviolent
11 means, for justice and equality for all people regardless, of race, sex
12 or creed; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King withstood verbal and physical abuse, the
14 bombing of his home, as well as incarceration where he wrote his
15 famous book, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", due to his
16 determination to ensure that the United States of America lived up
17 to the principles on which the nation was founded; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The March on Washington in 1963 was organized in large
19 part by Dr. King and it was here he delivered his famous “I Have a
20 Dream” speech, catapulting the issue of civil rights to the forefront
21 of American politics; and
22 **WHEREAS**, As a result of Dr. King’s efforts, Congress passed the Civil
23 Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, destroying
24 forever the state sponsored segregation and voter
25 disenfranchisement that had plagued America since the end of the
26 Civil War; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Due to his efforts, Dr. King was named Time Magazine’s
28 Person of the Year in 1963 and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in
29 1964; and
30 **WHEREAS**, By 1968, Dr. King turned his attention to the issue of
31 poverty, which affected Americans of all races, planning the Poor
32 People’s Campaign, focusing the nation’s attention on the
33 inequalities caused by poverty; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Dr. King’s presence in New Jersey, including speeches at
35 the Abyssinian Baptist Church Newark, the Community Baptist
36 Church in Paterson, the Union Baptist Church in Orange and the
37 Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church in Jersey City less than two
38 weeks before his assassination, brought a new spirit of unity to the
39 urban communities of New Jersey; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Given this record of accomplishment and his dedication to
41 the ideals of equality and nonviolence, for which he gave his life,
42 this House finds it fitting and proper to commemorate the 40th
43 anniversary of Dr. King’s visit to New Jersey; now, therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
46 *Jersey:*

1 1. This House commemorates the 40th anniversary of Dr.
2 Martin Luther King's visit to the New Jersey cities of Newark,
3 Paterson, Orange and Jersey City.

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5 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
6 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk
7 thereof, shall be transmitted to the director of the King Center in
8 Atlanta, Georgia.

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STATEMENT

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13 This Assembly resolution commemorates the 40th anniversary of
14 Martin Luther King's visit to the New Jersey cities of Newark,
15 Paterson, Orange and Jersey City. Dr. King was the preeminent
16 figure of the civil rights movement in the United States. He was the
17 driving force behind the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act
18 which extended basic rights to millions of American who had
19 previously been denied those rights. Dr. King was named Time
20 Magazine's Person of the year in 1963 and won the Nobel Peace
21 Prize in 1964. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, less
22 than two weeks after his visit to New Jersey.