
By: **Senators Britt, Astle, Brinkley, Brochin, Colburn, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Della, Dyson, Exum, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, Giannetti, Gladden, Green, Greenip, Grosfeld, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Hogan, Hollinger, Hooper, Hughes, Jacobs, Jimeno, Jones, Kasemeyer, Kelley, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lawlah, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Mooney, Munson, Pinsky, Pipkin, Ruben, Schrader, Stoltzfus, Stone, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Coretta Scott King Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor annually to declare a certain date as
4 Coretta Scott King Day.

5 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King, the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. and a civil
6 rights hero in her own right, died on January 31, 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, Born on April 27, 1927, in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott spent
8 her childhood on a farm owned by her parents, Obie Leonard Scott and Bernice
9 McMurray Scott; and

10 WHEREAS, After graduating from Lincoln High School, a private black
11 institution with an integrated faculty, Coretta Scott attended Antioch College in Ohio
12 and received a Bachelor of Arts in music and elementary education in 1949; and

13 WHEREAS, During her marriage to Martin Luther King, Jr., though Coretta
14 Scott King committed most of her time to raising the couple's four children: Yolanda
15 Denise (born 1955), Martin Luther, III (born 1957), Dexter Scott (born 1961), and
16 Bernice Albertine (born 1963), she was present at many of the major civil rights
17 events of the 1950s and 1960s; and

18 WHEREAS, Putting her musical training to use, Coretta Scott King
19 participated in "freedom concerts," which consisted of poetry recitation, singing, and
20 lectures relating to the history of the civil rights movement. The proceeds from these
21 concerts were often donated to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and

22 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King accompanied her husband on many of his trips,
23 traveling to Ghana in 1957 and India in 1959; and

1 WHEREAS, Even before her husband's 1967 statement against the war in
2 Vietnam, Mrs. King was involved in a number of peace and justice organizations, her
3 interest in disarmament taking her to Geneva, Switzerland, where she served as a
4 Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the 17-nation Disarmament Conference; and

5 WHEREAS, After Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination on April 4, 1968,
6 Coretta Scott King continued to advocate a philosophy of nonviolence; and

7 WHEREAS, Just a few days after her husband's death, Mrs. King led a march
8 on behalf of sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, and later that month she
9 substituted for her husband at an anti-Vietnam War rally in New York; and

10 WHEREAS, In May 1968, Coretta Scott King helped to launch the Poor People's
11 Campaign and thereafter participated in numerous anti-poverty efforts; and

12 WHEREAS, During the 1980s, Coretta Scott King reaffirmed her
13 long-standing opposition to apartheid, participating in a series of sit-in protests in
14 Washington, D.C., that prompted nationwide demonstrations against South African
15 racial policies; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1968, she traveled to South Africa to meet with Winnie Mandela
17 and, after her return to the United States, she personally urged President Ronald
18 Reagan to approve sanctions against South Africa; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Coretta Scott King remained active in various
20 women's organizations, including the National Organization for Women, the Women's
21 International League for Peace and Freedom, and the United Church Women; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
24 Governor is requested annually to declare April 27 as Coretta Scott King Day; and be
25 it further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
27 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
28 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
29 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.