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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 85

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

EDDIE CORLEY

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING ALL NEW MEXICO STATE AGENCIES AND POLITICAL
SUBDIVISIONS TO RESPECT AND HONOR THE LATE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ON HIS NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his life leading
the people of this country away from hatred and racism; and

WHEREAS, his memory is synonymous with honor, self-
sacrifice, integrity, justice and the pursuit of the American
dream; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Martin Luther King, Jr. national
holiday was declared by congress and supported by President
Ronald Reagan, thereby acknowledging this American Ghandi for
his leadership and excellent example in seeking equality of
opportunity for all persons; and

WHEREAS, in Laws 1987, Chapter 309, the New Mexico

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1 legislature declared the third Monday in January as an
2 official state holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. to
3 remind us that the struggle for freedom and equality is never-
4 ending; and

5 WHEREAS, in Laws 1991, Chapter 252, the New Mexico
6 legislature again recognized the importance of continuing the
7 work of this dedicated leader by establishing the state Martin
8 Luther King, Jr. commission, now officed in Albuquerque; and

9 WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque, in 1995, renamed a main
10 downtown thoroughfare, the old Grand avenue, as Martin Luther
11 King, Jr. boulevard; and

12 WHEREAS, a recent survey clearly indicates that
13 approximately half the state's eighty-nine school districts,
14 nine of our seventeen public institutions of higher education
15 and some of our county governments do not observe Martin
16 Luther King, Jr. day to remind us that unity and understanding
17 serve our country and our state better than hatred and racism;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, president Bill Clinton signed the King Holiday
20 and Service Act of 1994, expanding the mission of the federal
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday commission to include
22 promotion of this important holiday to encourage its
23 observance by community service, interracial cooperation and
24 youth anti-violence initiatives;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that every school district and political
2 subdivision in New Mexico be requested to reevaluate its
3 responsibility to observe and celebrate all national and state
4 holidays, especially Martin Luther King, Jr. day on the third
5 Monday of every January; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this joint memorial
7 be sent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. state commission for
8 appropriate distribution.

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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

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6 February 18, 1998

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8 Mr. Speaker:

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10 Your LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to
11 whom has been referred

12
13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 85

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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,

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21 _____
22 Sheryl M. Williams, Chairman
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1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2 SECOND SESSION, 1998

3 Page 5

4 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

5
6 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

7
8 Date _____

9
10 The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 6

12 Excused: Macko, Roberts

13 Absent: None

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