

WHEREAS; the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, and was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, leaving behind a legacy of civil rights activism that continues to fundamentally influence the fabric of American culture and society to this day; and

WHEREAS; through his tireless advocacy and world-renowned oration, Dr. King rose to prominence in the mid-20th century as a leading figure of the civil rights movement in the United States, alongside other civil rights icons that include Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, John Lewis, James Farmer, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, Dorothy Height, and Wisconsin's Vel Phillips, Lloyd Barbee, and James Groppi; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King dedicated his life to ensuring equal rights for all people through nonviolent protest and civil disobedience, and between 1955 and 1968, he wrote five books and numerous articles, delivered countless speeches, mobilized hundreds of thousands of activists, and traveled over six million miles to address the roots of injustice in American society; and

WHEREAS; today, more than half a century later, Dr. King's work undoubtedly continues to inspire generations of activists and inform contemporary movements toward racial, economic, and social justice in the United States, including in Wisconsin, and around the world; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King's legacy, the movements he led, and the seminal works he left behind—such as his “I Have a Dream” and “I've Been to the Mountaintop” speeches and his written works, which include “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and “Pilgrimage to Nonviolence”—laid the foundation for an unprecedented collective recognition of structural inequality as well as contemporary efforts toward the full realization of equity and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS; as we reflect on Dr. King's life and lasting legacy, we recognize that many of the injustices and inequities that he worked to address in his lifetime have nevertheless remained deeply entrenched in our culture and institutions, and we are reminded that there is still much work left to be done to eradicate all forms of institutionalized discrimination, prejudice, and oppression in our state and throughout our country; and

WHEREAS; each year, the state of Wisconsin honors Dr. King's legacy by hosting the oldest state ceremony celebrating his life and work, and this year's theme is “Walk In The Light,” in the spirit of overcoming divisiveness, distrust, and fear of those who are different; and

WHEREAS; while this year's in-person celebration was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, Wisconsinites will nonetheless celebrate in various ways, with mindful attention paid to the message of this year's theme; and

WHEREAS; today, on this federal holiday, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reaffirms its commitment to continuing his work by rejecting bigotry and hate in all its manifestations, protecting and defending voting rights in our state and country, and building a state that is more just, more equitable, and where every kid and family has the opportunity and resources to thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim January 17, 2022, as

THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 14th day of January 2022.

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TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

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DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State