

No. 338

AN ACT

HB 1756

Providing for the observance of January 15 of each year as Martin Luther King Day.

WHEREAS, The United States of America was deeply grieved by the vicious and senseless act which ended the life of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Junior, this country's apostle of nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and its Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly, recognize and appreciate the immense contribution and sacrifice of this dedicated American; and

WHEREAS, The American people are determined that the life and works of this great man shall not be obscured by violence and anger, but rather that they shall remain a shining symbol of the Nation's nonviolent struggle for social progress; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon us to recognize that violence, hatred, and national division do no honor to the man who has been taken from us; and

WHEREAS, Mutual respect and a firm commitment to the ideals of nonviolence for which he labored will be the most lasting memorial to the life of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior; and

WHEREAS, It is fervently hoped that his death may serve to reconcile those among us who have harbored hatred and resentment for their fellow Americans, to the end that our country may at last realize the ideal of equality set forth in our Constitution.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. In honor of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, who was born on January 15, 1929, January 15 of each year is hereby designated as "Martin Luther King Day" and is set aside to commemorate the birth of Martin Luther King, Junior. The Governor is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation each year calling upon the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to commemorate the life and the service to his country and its citizens of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, and to observe that day with appropriate honors, ceremonies, and prayers.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 30th day of December, A. D. 1974.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly
No. 338.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a prominent "T" at the end.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.