

RESOLUTION NO. 450

WHEREAS, The American Civil Rights Movement has brought forth significant advancements in the area of civil and human rights for all citizens and especially for this nation's poor and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., rose to a universally recognized position of leadership in the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, much of the success of the movement can be directly attributed to the dedicated and inspired leadership provided by Dr. King; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's death at the hands of an assassin on April 4, 1968 was a tragic loss to the movement as well as the nation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria wishes to designate a period of time in commemoration of the contributions of Dr. King in the fields of peace and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria's public schools will be presenting various programs, displays and projects focusing on the Civil Rights Movement and the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in observance of Dr. King's birthday on January 15; and

WHEREAS, the Black Race has made outstanding contributions to America's laws, her institutions, her wealth, and her cultural heritage, and all the treasures of its civilization, progress has been made not only by Black People's will and ambition, but by his intellect; and

WHEREAS, the Black Race has for many generations, made contributions to human progress in the arts and sciences, the study of Black History is necessary in order that the Black Race may have the benefits of his traditions and Heritage; and

WHEREAS, each year to focus attention on Black People's contributions, the Association for the Study of Black Life and History, observes Black History Week; and

WHEREAS, Black History Week in 1976 will commence on Sunday, February 8th and end on Sunday, February 15th; and

WHEREAS, the year of 1976 is the Bicentennial year of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, certain citizens of the City of Alexandria have requested that to focus attention on Black Heritage, accomplishments and contributions to the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, both events are so closely related.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Alexandria that the period starting with the late Dr. King's birthday, Thursday, January 15, 1976, and ending on the final day of the Black History Week, Sunday, February 15, 1976, be set aside in memory of the late Dr. King and Black Heritage.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this period be designated as Black Heritage Month.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all persons are encouraged to participate in planned activities during this Black Heritage period.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this commemoration of Dr. King's birthday and Black Heritage Month shall serve as a reminder of an opportunity for recommitment by all persons to the goals sought by Dr. King in the field of civil and human rights and peace.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council will continue to encourage annual observances of the vast contributions to the American people by Black men and women.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that all local newsmedia be requested to publicize this resolution.

Adopted December 13, 1975

Helen Holleman, City Clerk and
Clerk of Council