State of Connecticut

By His Excellency Dannel P. Malloy, Governor:

PROCLAMATION

On August 28, 1963 at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Dr. Martin Luther King proclaimed, “even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’

It was on Monday, January 20, 1986, that Connecticut observed and celebrated the first federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s message of equality.

Dr. King was a man with an unwavering devotion to the concepts of nonviolence, liberty, justice, and equality. He valiantly challenged the social injustices of racial segregation and discrimination.

Dr. King set forth a vision that sought, “to bring into full realization the dream of our American democracy...A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men do not argue that the color of a man’s skin can determine the content of his character...the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of all human personality, and men will dare to live together as brothers....”

More than 40 years after his death, Dr. King’s vision continues to provide a powerful symbol of a life based on what he called a “new revolution of values based on love, compassion, and justice.”

Dr. King often said, “There are those who write history. There are those who make history. There are those who experience history.”

Today, Connecticut will both be making and experiencing history by our celebration of Dr. King’s life and the legacy of his timeless message.

In honor of the commitments for which he gave his life, let this holiday be more than just an anniversary; let it be a celebration of freedom and equality for all. In accordance with the laws of Connecticut, I hereby proclaim January 20, 2014, as

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY

Let his words ring again and again — for everyone on earth.

Given under my hand and seal of the State at the Capitol, in Hartford, this twentieth day of January, two thousand and fourteen and of the independence of the United States the two hundred thirty-eighth.

by His Excellency’s Command

Secretary of the State