

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 15, 2018 AS THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the foremost leader of the modern American Civil Rights Movement and one of the greatest advocates for racial equality, social justice and human rights in the history of the nation and the world; he was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King embraced the practice of non-violent civil disobedience, as practiced by Mahatma Gandhi, as an effective means of exposing and overcoming institutional racism, prejudice and injustice; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King, by his vision, intellect, electrifying oratorical skill and selfless dedication to fairness, freedom and justice for all, soon rose to leadership in the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, the name of the Rev. Dr. King is synonymous with the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957 (which he served as president from its inception until his assassination), the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, his receipt of the Noble Peace Prize in 1964, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War, the Poor People's Campaign for economic justice of 1968, and many more milestones in the struggle for freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King's message evolved over time from one of basic civil rights of voting and desegregation, to embrace labor rights, economic and social justice, and peace and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King was threatened, jailed, assaulted, bombed, and also targeted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, yet never wavered in his advocacy of racial equality and economic and social justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and after fifteen years of advocacy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was enacted into law in 1983 and first celebrated as a federal holiday in 1986, but was not officially observed in all 50 states until the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King proclaimed "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal'; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King looked forward to the day when everyone would be judged not "by the color of their skin but by the content of their character;" and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. King stated "human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims January 15, 2018, as:

"The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino encourages everyone to observe the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by reflecting on his life and legacy and to continue the struggle to overcome racism, hatred, intolerance, and ignorance and to uphold freedom, equality and justice for all!

DAN HAMBURG, Chair