



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers join to commemorate the 94th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of our country's most influential leaders whose impassioned crusade for civil rights, equality, and social change transformed the world; during this celebration of his life and legacy, we pay tribute to Dr. King for his tireless commitment to build a more peaceful world – a world free of violence, hatred, prejudice, and discrimination; and

Whereas, we continue to find inspiration in the values Dr. King epitomized, which stirred the collective conscience of America as he led movements and marches that gave a voice to those who had none and sparked a call to action among people of all backgrounds; today, Dr. King's courage and devotion to the quest for true freedom are remembered by people across this nation and the entire world, and his lifelong words and teachings endure in our hearts and minds; and

Whereas, this year we commemorate a significant milestone in the life of Dr. King, as August 28th marks the 60th anniversary of his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech delivered at the historic March on Washington and heard in homes across the country and world; Dr. King's eloquent address is recognized as one of the most powerful and profound orations in American history, and a watershed moment in the civil rights movement; and

Whereas, this year also marks the 60th anniversary of Dr. King's imprisonment in Birmingham, Alabama on April 12, 1963 for his participation in a nonviolent campaign against racism and unjust laws that allowed segregation and other forms of discrimination; Dr. King penned *Letter from Birmingham Jail* in defense of his philosophy of peaceful resistance as a necessary means to ensuring justice in America, summarized in this famous statement, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"; and

Whereas, the values embraced by Dr. King are reflected in the 2023 New York State Memorial Observance theme, "*Paths to Change*," echoing Dr. King's commitment to bringing about social, political, and economic change through peaceful and nonviolent means; this national holiday asks each of us to answer Dr. King's appeal for a world where all people are treated with compassion and ensured the right to a life of dignity that all human beings deserve; and

Whereas, America's greatest asset is its diversity of people whose contributions strengthen our social fabric, making each of us part of the common thread of humankind, and Dr. King understood the connectedness of all communities and the impact that one can have on another; central to Dr. King's philosophy was the concept of community service, and the Empire State maintains this ideal through various initiatives including food drives, book drives, blood drives, volunteer fairs, career fairs, as well as children's educational and creative programs – and we encourage New Yorkers of all ages to honor Dr. King's legacy through charitable work and philanthropic service to benefit the greater good; and

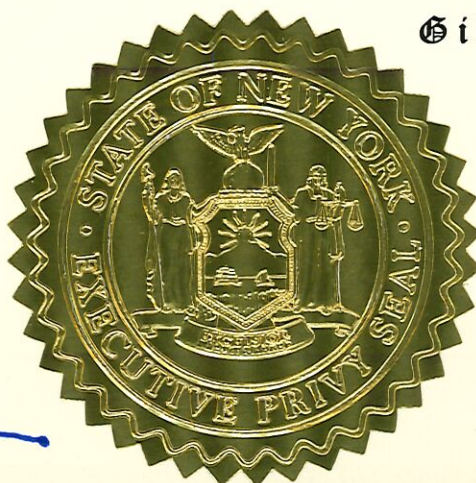
Whereas, few individuals have had such a profound impact on our society as did Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we continue to find solace in his example of strength and perseverance; inspired furthermore by his belief that as one people united in principle and purpose we can and shall overcome all hate, violence, and prejudice, we will forever remember and honor Dr. King for his devotion to humankind and to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice for all;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2023 as

REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

in the Empire State and reaffirm our shared commitment to the goal of building a better world through peaceful, nonviolent social change.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this ninth day of
January in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor