



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a movement that achieved revolutionary gains in social justice, equality and opportunity, during his lifetime and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King – founder and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and winner of the Nobel Prize – had planned a series of events in North Carolina on April 4, 1968, culminating with a speech in Wilmington, until the sanitation workers' strike necessitated he remain in Memphis, where he fell to an assassin's bullet that evening; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King had been invited by Dr. Hubert Eaton to speak at a rally on voter registration held in the auditorium at Williston High School in Wilmington on that fateful night; and

WHEREAS, Williston High School has a distinguished history, and has remained a point of pride in the African American community beyond its closing by the New Hanover County Board of Education in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King originally planned to spend April 4, 1968, campaigning with Dr. Reginald Hawkins, a Charlotte dentist and minister who was the first African American to run for a Southern statewide office since Reconstruction; Dr. King planned to campaign with Dr. Hawkins in Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, Wilson, and New Bern, before closing the day at Williston High School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's message in the months before the tragic events of April 1968 extended from voting rights and social justice to a Poor People's Campaign and opposition to the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the life and legacy of Dr. King are memorialized by statues, roadways, and public facilities across North Carolina, including a bust at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, where he was also scheduled to speak on April 4, 1968, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway (formerly Smith Creek Parkway) in Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Anniversary Commemoration Commission in Wilmington will host an event at the former Williston High School, now Williston Middle School, on April 4, 2018, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 4, 2018, as a day "IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR." in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.