



*WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to the advancement of civil rights and public service. He believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and challenged all citizens to help build a more perfect union and live up to the purpose and potential of America; and,*

*WHEREAS, Dr. King recognized that everybody can be great because everybody can serve, and during his lifetime encouraged all Americans to serve their neighbors and their communities; and,*

*WHEREAS, in 1973, the State of Illinois became the first state to make Dr. King's birthday a state holiday. The citizens of Illinois honor Dr. King's legacy each year on the third Monday in January; and,*

*WHEREAS, legislation creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was signed into law in 1983, and the holiday was first observed in 1986, making 2013 the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nationwide observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday; and,*

*WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress initiated the King Day of Service, a nationwide effort to transform the federal holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into a day of community service, grounded in Dr. King's teachings, that helps solve social problems; and,*

*WHEREAS, this day focuses on bringing people together and breaking down the barriers that have divided us as a nation; and,*

*WHEREAS, thousands of Illinois residents use Martin Luther King Day as "a day on, not a day off," by spending it performing community service; and,*

*WHEREAS, each year hundreds of thousands of volunteers in cities and towns across the nation participate in thousands of King Day service projects in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and,*

*WHEREAS, the King Day of Service, which falls on January 21 this year, is an opportune time for the people of Illinois to recognize Dr. King's teachings on advancing equality and opportunity for all by contributing their own time and talents in a day of service; and,*

*WHEREAS, each citizen is encouraged to take part in service that will benefit communities and neighborhoods and provide a fitting memorial to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and,*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of THE State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 21, 2013 as **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE** in Illinois, and urge citizens throughout Illinois to honor the memory of Dr. King and put his teachings into action by finding ways to give back to their communities on this day and throughout the year. To find a volunteer opportunity or to learn more about how to recognize your volunteers, visit the Serve Illinois Commission website at [www.Serve.Illinois.gov](http://www.Serve.Illinois.gov) or call 800-592-9896.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*

*this FOURTH day of JANUARY, in*

*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*

*THIRTEEN, and of the State of Illinois*

*the one hundred and NINETY-FIFTH*

*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR