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PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS ENCOURAGES ALL
LOUISIANIANS TO GATHER AND CHALLENGE EACH OTHER TO A
DAY OF SERVICE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 21ST
WHEREVER YOU ARE**

Chairman Randal L. Gaines and the 32 Members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus released the following statement in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which has been observed annually since 1994 and dedicated as a National Day of Service the 3rd Monday of January in honor of the civil right leader's birthday January 15, 1929.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA - Since congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a National Day of Service – we feel that it is important for that day to be continued from generation to generation. As we go through our daily lives, let us dedicate some part of what we can do to advance social justice and equality for all in our country, as Dr. King, the many brave people that went before us, and those still on the frontlines of keeping America true to our Declaration of Independence.

The words of Dr. King are spot on today and in all of the conversations throughout this country and around the world, his quote *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we have to strive to be a better nation to each other in our homes, in our communities and all across the world, said Caucus Chairman Randal L. Gaines."*

Chairman Gaines, went on to encourage Louisianans to continue to build on the works of Dr. King and others by furthering the fight for equality, civil rights, defending civil liberties, voting rights, demanding health care for all and advocating for equitable living wages. It seems that our nation is divided on too many fronts, but, we have a chance to honor Dr. King's vision and stand united... "Today, we celebrate his labors and encourage all Louisianians to find ways to honor his work through acts of service in our communities."

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