

## **Part 7: Introduction to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.**



**Background.** The memorial to honor Dr. King, although approved, is not yet a reality. In December of 2000, officials dedicated a plaque at the center of the memorial site, adjacent to the FDR Memorial, West Basin Drive, near the Japanese lantern. The MLK Memorial Foundation selected a design, but it is being scrutinized by numerous commissions and is subject to their final approval. The foundation is in the process of raising necessary funds. They have until 2003 to do so. The Secretary of the Interior's office will issue a construction permit when, and only when, the memorial foundation successfully completes its fund drive and the memorial design has passed all appropriate commission reviews.

**Daily and Standing Operating Procedures for Duty at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.** Pending.

**Twenty Most Frequently Asked Questions.** Pending.

### **Description of the Cultural Resource.**

The King Memorial will stand on a four-acre plot across the tidal basin from the Jefferson Memorial and northeast of the memorial to President Franklin Roosevelt.

According to memorial planners, the approved site creates a visual "line of leadership" from the Lincoln Memorial, where King gave his famous "I have a dream" speech, to the Jefferson Memorial.

**Origins of the Memorial.** The idea for this memorial originated with members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., of which Dr. King was a member. The Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Foundation is a project of that fraternity which, in 1998, was authorized by the U.S. Congress to establish a foundation to manage the fund-raising and design of a memorial to Dr. King.

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, agreed to serve as honorary chairwoman of the project and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young is leading the fund-raising effort. The group has until November 12, 2003 to complete a design, raise the money for the memorial and break ground.

Dr. King joined the fraternal organization in 1952. Alpha Phi Alpha is one of the oldest predominantly African-American fraternities in the nation. This fraternity has 700 chapters in 42 states, and its members include some of the most prominent leaders and distinguished public officials within the United States.

"The fraternity wishes to honor Dr. King's remarkable role with a memorial in the Nation's Capitol," said U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), the Chairman of the Resources Committee. "The memorial will provide a lasting recognition that will assist in passing Dr. King's message from generation to generation."

**The first recommendations for a tribute to the Dr. King.** With Martin Luther King's assassination in April, 1968, black

and white community leaders came together to mourn his passing. Twelve years after his death, Congress authorized that his home and church in Atlanta be preserved as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Three years later, in 1983 a movement was launched to create a national day of remembrance for Dr. King, but there was no move to honor his memory with a national memorial in the nation's capital for some time.

**Congressional Resolutions.** Congress passed Public Law 104-333 in 1996 which:

- authorized the **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity** to establish a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.

- stipulated that no U.S. funds will be used to pay the costs incurred for the design, installation, construction or maintenance of the memorial

Thus, Alpha Phi Alpha has organized private fund-raising efforts to pay for all phases of the monument's establishment. Total funding for the Memorial will be provided by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

**Site Selection.** On January 29, 1998, the Secretary of the Interior notified Congress of his recommendation that the memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. be established within Area I of the District of Columbia. In June, 1998, Congress acted upon his recommendation, as described in the following article by Steve Hanson, National Desk/ Environmental Reporter for the House of Representatives:

*Martin Luther King Memorial Approved By Congressional Committee Washington, D.C. - Legislation approving the establishment of a memorial to Martin Luther King Jr. was unanimously approved by the U.S. House Committee on Resources today.*

*H.J. Res. 113 approves the memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. at a site located in Area 1 in the District of Columbia. The Department of the Interior, in consultation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission on Fine Arts, will select the final site and approve the design.*

It took several years and several tense meetings to agree upon which site of Area 1 would be granted to the new memorial. The Tidal Basin site was finally agreed upon, as described below in a press release from the MLK National Memorial Foundation, Inc.:

*National Commission Gives Green Light to Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the Washington Mall.*

*National Capital Planning Commission Approval Accelerates Design Competition, Fund-raising Efforts*

*WASHINGTON, D.C., (December 2, 1999) A prominent site on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. was approved today for a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is the last of three federal commissions that must approve a site before a design can be considered. The memorial will be the first sited on the mall to commemorate an African-American.*

*"The approval of the tidal basin site means that the memorial to this great international figure will become a reality," said John Carter, project chairman and vice president of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation. "This site puts Dr. King in a place of tranquility, vision, historic significance and in a visual line of leaders, between Lincoln and Jefferson.*

*"Now that we have our site, we can launch a design competition and continue our fundraising efforts," said Carter.*

*Carter said today's approval was the result of constructive discussions and cooperation with the Commission, as well as tremendous public support. Commission Chairman Harvey Gantt announced the vote on Thursday afternoon.*

*"I am absolutely delighted and pleased that the commission working with the sponsoring groups, the MLK Foundation and the National Parks Service, were able to come to a positive and meaningful solution," said Gantt. "Now it is our hope that the process can move forward toward a design competition that will result in the development of a memorial that will be a lasting tribute to a great American."*

*"Only in America can the grandson of former slaves end up on the mall in a prominent position," said Carter. "The prestigious placement of this memorial demonstrates the progress achieved by the very movement that Dr. King led."*

*Carter said design proposal packages will be distributed worldwide and available through the Internet early next year.*

### **Design Competition and Design**

**Approval.** The design was approved on September 12, 2000 and is described in the following press release from the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.:

***Winning Design Unveiled For Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Memorial To Capture "The Man, The Message And The Movement".***

*WASHINGTON, D.C. - A national memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one step closer to becoming reality, as the winning design for the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial was unveiled today at a gala in the nation's capital. The winning submission, created by the architectural firm ROMA Design Group of San Francisco, Calif., was selected from more than 900 entries by an international panel of renowned architects and designers.*

*"We feel that the design chosen embodies the spirit of this truly great leader and that the memorial will serve as a place of peace, reflection and inspiration," said Adrian L. Wallace, Director and President of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.*

*The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial will be constructed on a four-acre site on the Tidal Basin, built in a line-of-sight between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. The King Memorial will be the first site on the Mall to commemorate an individual African American and the last memorial erected on the Mall.*

*After receiving site approval by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPD) in December 1999, the Foundation embarked on the search for a design. By May, the Foundation had received more than 900 submissions from architects, landscape architects, students, sculptors and professors representing more than 34 countries. The response was so overwhelming that the Foundation used the MCI Center to accommodate the design judging by the international panel of jurors.*

*"The response to the call for entries made the process of selecting one design one of the greatest challenges of my career as a design professional," said design panel*

*juror Karen Phillips, President and CEO of Abyssinian Development Corporation.*

*"However, the selected design addressed the physical context, site conditions and philosophical symbolism of the location while ensuring that the program elements - "The Man, The Message, The Movement" - were incorporated into a memorial respectful of Dr. King's legacy."*

*The composition of the memorial uses natural landscape elements - stone, water and trees - to powerfully convey three fundamental and recurring themes of Dr. King's life: democracy, justice and hope. According to Boris Dramov, leader of ROMA's memorial team, one of the ways the design creates an experience that evokes the spirit of "the Man, the Message and the Movement" is through metaphorical references made by Dr. King in his powerful speeches.*

*"Dr. King often referred to the 'stone of hope' cast out of the 'mountain of despair', so we used rough, hewn stone to create a dark tunnel entrance that emerges into a light, open space with a large smooth stone at the edge of the Tidal Basin," said Dramov.*

*Dramov has been involved in the redevelopment of the Northeastern Waterfront in San Francisco and the design of Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, which is one of the most successful activity centers within the Los Angeles region.*

*"This design creates a place for people to congregate to contemplate Dr. King's life," said Randy Hester, Jr., a professor at the University of California at Berkeley and one of the design competition judges. "It emphasizes the importance of people coming together for the civil rights movement, and*

*even today, the importance of coming together as a bigger community."*

*With both a site and design selected, the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Project Foundation will continue working with various commissions to ensure that the design meets building specifications.*

*Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger was also present for the unveiling today to reaffirm his company's support for building the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. In June, his company pledged to make a Memorial contribution of cash-in-kind valued at a minimum of five million dollars over the next three years.*

**The Winning Design. The following description is from the official website of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. :**

***JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY, HOPE...The Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial is conceived of as an engaging landscape experience tied to other landscapes and monuments, not as a single object or memorial dominating the site. The composition of the memorial utilizes landscape elements to powerfully convey three fundamental and recurring themes of Dr. King's life: justice, democracy and hope. The circular geometry of the memorial, juxtaposed within the triangular configuration of the site, engages the Tidal Basin and frames views to the water. The central opening through the arc on the axis of the Jefferson and Lincoln Monuments places this memorial directly in line with larger democratic ideals that form the context for King's words and deeds. The memorial is envisioned as a quiet and receptive space, yet at the same time, powerful and emotionally evocative,***

*reflecting the spirit of the message Dr. King delivered and the role he played in society. The King Memorial is intended to be personally transformative for visitors, building a sense of commitment to the promise of positive change and active citizenship. Drawing from Dr. King's own rich metaphorical language, the themes of "the Man, the Movement and the Message" are intertwined into a larger experience of place.*

***The Spiritual Presence Of Dr. King.*** *Dr. Martin Luther King is remembered as a great orator whose impact on the nation came from the eloquence and inspirational quality of his words. His speeches, sermons and public addresses melded themes of democracy deeply embedded in the American conscience, and reinvigorated these messages with clear and insightful reflections on the true meaning of justice and equality. Within the memorial, quotes from Dr. King's sermons and speeches, arranged chronologically according to his life, are to be inscribed at a large scale on the glistening smooth surfaces of the water wall. These passages will be reinforced through the referential use of water, stone and light as metaphorical elements that heighten an awareness of his message.*

*All of the senses will be engaged through the experience of the memorial, and, foremost, through the visual perception of space, using contrast and juxtaposition, scale and height and the bold display of carefully selected words expressing his spirit. The inspirational text and the mood created by the sound of the water, its cooling mists, and the visual complexity of its varied states together with the contrasting rough and smooth surfaces of stone, the abrupt and gradual changes in grade and the patterns of light and darkness will dramatically underscore the visual sense of the man and*

*the qualities of courage, conviction and leadership that characterize his life and work.*

*Added to these powerful sensory experiences will be a sculptural representation of Dr. King himself. This is not conceived of as a pure figurative depiction of his physical being, separate and apart from other elements, but rather would give another dimension and layer of meaning to the experience of the memorial as a whole. Dr. King will appear as an integral part of the "Stone of Hope", as if he embodies the stone itself. He will be positioned on the side of the stone facing the Jefferson Memorial and will be gradually revealed as part of the procession towards the Tidal Basin. At first, as one enters the main space, the stone will appear as a solid monumental mass, somehow cleft from the stones flanking the portal entry, but pushed forward so as to be visually juxtaposed with the Jefferson Memorial.*

*As one gets closer to the monolith, its rough hewn edges toward the memorial will begin to take on a vaguely familiar contour, recognizable, but not entirely clear. Finally, as one looks back to the water wall and main space from the stone, the image of Dr. King will be fully revealed. He will be seen looking across the Tidal Basin to the Jefferson Memorial and pointing with a pencil back to his words in "The Promissory Note" as if, having just written these words, he is now standing vigil and awaiting delivery of the note. The indirect view of King and the incompleteness of his form will make his spiritual presence more powerful. This representation will stir the emotions, transcend the physical and symbolic and directly engage the imagination of the viewer. The entire memorial invokes the memory and spiritual presence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*through the visual experience of place, reinforced by the full range of sensory perception, the metaphorical use of water, stone and other landscape elements, the powerful display of passages from his sermons and speeches and the appearance of his physical image in the "Stone of Hope".*

**Composition And Spatial Experience.** *This memorial is not designed to be experienced in a single way with one single message, but rather it is to have a broad accessibility, appealing to all of the senses with diverse, repetitive and overlapping themes. The introduction of an arcing berm into the horizontal arrangement of the site creates an array of spaces suitable for movement, viewing, sitting, meeting, speaking and congregating in large and small groups. The use of water creates different moods, from calm and quiet wellsprings to glistening sheets, to rushing foment. Mists will help cool the environment in the warm summer months and textured stone will recall the movement of falling water in the cold winter months. The varied treatment and texture of water, stone and landscape will create an environment that is inviting and functional in all seasons and from year to year.*

**About The Niches.** *Like streams flowing into a mighty river, the 24 niches along the upper walkway commemorate the contribution of the many individuals that gave their lives in different ways to the civil rights movement - from Medgar Evers to the four children murdered by a bomb blast at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. In deference to the unfinished nature of the movement, a random number will be left open and incomplete, allowing additional niches to be dedicated at a later point in time. These semicircular nave-like spaces are intended to engage personal contemplation and quiet reflection, and will be directly accessible from the upper*

*walkway. Each space will be hewn from rock, with rough edges on the outside, and smooth stone on the inside ("rough places made plain"). They will be designed to accommodate visitors to the memorial throughout the day and evening and during each season of the year. The niches create a cadence and rhythm along the arcing path that reinforces the processional experience which will be punctuated by the pattern of light and shadow of the alternating trees. While each niche will share a common theme with water, seating and trees, the intention is that each be unique and distinctive, honoring the individual contribution of each interrupted life.*

**Landscape Elements.** *Natural elements; water, stone, trees are used to underscore the themes of justice, democracy and hope. These are not composed to impose a didactic message, but overlap with one another, adding layers of content that can be discovered by the visitor.*

**Water.** *Water is used throughout the memorial to recall most powerfully the theme of justice. Drawing on its location at the edge of the Tidal Basin, water is used as an essential element that builds on King's words and on the crescendo effect of his sermons and speeches. The water appears throughout the memorial, but in each location, a special character is created. Within the site, the source of the water comes from the multiple martyrs' wellsprings, residing in individually crafted niches at the top of the landscape berm and adjacent to the path. Each of these niches and wellsprings will recount the contribution of each martyr to the movement and each will be unique to commemorate the individual. Wellsprings will be hewn out of the stone ("rough on the outside, smooth on the inside") and will create a contemplative environment for reflection. From these*

*quiet niches adjacent to the elevated walkway, individual streams will flow out over the wall and form a part of the larger torrent cascading down a water wall. This wall, in turn, will be punctuated by turbulent water tumbling over textured surfaces and will contrast the large smooth surfaces of polished granite, glistening with text, chronologically arranged to recount the major freedom struggles of King's life.*

**Stone.** *Hewn stones with smooth surfaces ("every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain") are used throughout the memorial to display the different ways King and other civil rights activists acted out their faith that the democratic ideals of the founding fathers (symbolized by the Jefferson Memorial) can be realized through struggle and sacrifice. At the entry portal, two stones are parted and a single stone is pushed back in the horizon, appearing as the missing piece of what was once a single boulder. The smooth and polished sides of each portal stone contrast the rough surfaces of the boulder.*

*On the one side, the theme of hope is presented, with the text from King's 1963 speech cut sharply into the stone: "With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope." On the other side are inscribed these words: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Together, and at the threshold of the Memorial plaza, the themes of justice and hope are introduced and are juxtaposed with democratic ideals, forcefully brought into visual focus by the presence of the Jefferson Monument in the distance, across the Tidal Basin. Beyond this portal, a single stone appears to have been thrust forward, wrested from the boulder and pushed forward, within the frame of view of the Jefferson Memorial. On it, King's words are*

*inscribed: "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.*

*This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the 'unalienable Rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness'... We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation".*

**Trees.** *Large, majestic trees; oaks, pines, magnolias and cherries reinforce the spatial integrity of the Memorial and add a temporal dimension, exhibiting seasonal change and annual growth and offering opportunities for additional memorial spaces dedicated to other heroes, such as Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer, of the struggle for social justice and nonviolent social change.*

*For most of the site, the trees are planted in random masses, weaving together the cherries at the edges of the Tidal Basin with the magnolias framing either side of the plaza space or creating evergreen sentinels, marking the edges of the flanking streets. At the top of the inclined plane, adjacent to the upper pathway, a regular cadence of American oaks traces the curvature of form that embraces the site and brings into focus the central themes of democracy, justice and hope.*

**The Designers.** The Foundations website provides the following information about the design team:

**ROMA Design Group** is an interdisciplinary firm of architects, landscape architects and planners which is

*based in San Francisco and does work throughout the United States and abroad. We are a medium sized firm, that has, over the past twenty years, established a reputation for design excellence and commitment to the improvement of the public realm of cities. Although most of the ROMA staff shared their thoughts and helped in some way to put the design submission together, the following summarizes information about key individuals on the MLK National Memorial Team: Boris Dramov is the Team Leader for the Martin Luther King Memorial Project, providing overall conceptual direction and design leadership. He is an Architect and an Urban Designer, and is the ROMA Principal who established the current interdisciplinary practice of the firm, which focuses on the transformation of the post-industrial city and the design of public spaces, including plazas, parks, promenades and streets. Mr. Dramov was a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies at Harvard University in 1980; he received a Master's of Architecture from Columbia University in 1970; and a Bachelor's of Architecture from University of Southern California in 1966. He is a registered Architect and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He was also featured in the PBS Special aired in 1996, "Back from the Brink" on his work in the design and planning for the revitalization of cities.*

*Mr. Dramov has worked on projects throughout the United States and abroad. Significant project experience includes the redevelopment of the Northeastern Waterfront in San Francisco, which was acclaimed by the San Francisco Chronicle as "the most striking success to date - anywhere in the country and perhaps the world - of citizen participatory planning turned into a work of civic art. The result has not been a patched-up popular*

*compromise, but a lordly urban vision". This work has included the planning of 1-1/2 miles of urban shoreline, the reuse of obsolete industrial facilities and the creation of the new South Beach residential neighborhood and the Rincon Point mixed use area. In addition, he led the design team for the transportation and open space improvements for the downtown waterfront in front of the landmark Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street. These improvements are just being completed, and received this year's National AIA Urban Design Award of Excellence. Additional projects on the San Francisco waterfront include Pier 7, a public access and recreational pier; the Embarcadero Promenade, and the Downtown Ferry Terminal, which is currently under construction.*

*Another notable project was the design of Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, which is one of the most successful activity centers within the Los Angeles region. The Promenade functions both as a retail destination and a social gathering space for the community. It created a lively pedestrian environment which has become a model for many cities. It also was awarded the National AIA Urban Design Award of Excellence. Additional projects in Santa Monica include the preparation of the Downtown Urban Design Plan, the Civic Center Master Plan, and a variety of public spaces and promenades within the Downtown and Civic Center areas. Bonnie Fisher is a Principal of ROMA Design Group and Director of Landscape Architecture. She is one of several key members of the team that contributed significantly to the development of concepts related to the MLK Memorial Project, and in particular, in verbally communicating these ideas in narrative form. Ms. Fisher has brought to the firm and this project her*



*environmental design orientation and knowledge of arboriculture as well as the design of urban landscapes. Ms. Fisher is a registered landscape architect, educated at the University of California and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She has a Masters of Landscape Architecture in Urban Design from the University of California at Berkeley and a Bachelor's of Arts (Cum Laude) from UCLA. She is a founding Board member of the museum for art and technology at Yerba Buena Center (Zeum). She has contributed numerous articles in professional journals related to planning and design.*

*Ms. Fisher played an important role in the planning and design of the San Francisco waterfront, including the design of Pier 7, which received a National ASLA Honor Award. She also prepared the award winning Recreation and Open Space Plan and Downtown Urban Design Plan for the City of Santa Monica and participated in the design of the Third Street Promenade. Currently, she is completing the design of a five acre public park within a new neighborhood for the City of San Jose.*

*Jim Adams is a Principal of ROMA and Director of Urban Design and is also a key contributor to the concepts and ideas related to the MLK Memorial Project. At ROMA, he has been in charge of urban design plans for specific development projects as well as special districts of cities and transit-oriented mixed use neighborhoods. He has managed large multidisciplinary consultant teams of complex urban projects and worked effectively with multiple client and community groups.*

*Mr. Adams received his Masters of Urban Design (with distinction) from Harvard University in 1980, and his Bachelor of Architecture (honor graduate) from*

*University of Toronto in 1977. He is a registered architect and member of the American Institute of Architects.*

*Mr. Adams has special expertise in the revitalization of urban communities and focuses upon the need to preserve the unique characteristics of each community in a changing economic environment. He has led numerous projects having to do with major transportation facilities and their design and integration within the urban fabric to create sustainable, livable communities. Key projects include the reuse master plan for the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport in Austin, Texas; the Southern Pacific Railyards in Sacramento (which received a National AIA Urban Design Award); and the Midtown, Tasman, Bascom and Fruitvale transit oriented developments in the Santa Clara Valley. Currently, he is working on the development plan for the Uptown District of Houston, Texas.*

*Burton Miller is a Principal of ROMA and Director of Architecture. He specializes in the design of large scale mixed use projects and has led numerous international multidisciplinary teams in the design of office, hotel, service apartment, residential and retail complexes throughout the United States and Asia. He played an important role in the MLK Memorial Project, and made very significant contributions to the development of the site plan and overall design concepts as well as the preparation of competition drawings.*

*Mr. Miller brings his large scale master planning experience and in-depth knowledge of a wide spectrum of building types to ROMA's mixed use, urban density projects. and has an in-depth understanding of a broad spectrum of building types. Significant project experience includes the design of the Makati Greenbelt mixed use*

*complex which includes hotel, office, service apartments, and retail uses organized around major open space in downtown Manila; the development of retail and streetscape concepts for Orchard Road, the main shopping street in Singapore; the 1999 Winter Asian Games Sports Complex in Korea; the San Diego Ballpark District; and the Mid-Embarcadero Transportation and Open Space Projects. Mr. Miller received both his Bachelors and Masters of Architecture from Cornell University. He is a registered architect, and a member of the American Institute of Architects.*

*Robert Holloway, graphic designer, contributed to the layout and composition of competition boards, and Carl Baker, built the three-dimensional model, which was effective in the design as well as presentation of the concepts.*

*In addition to ROMA staff, two important additional members of the Team include Christopher Grubbs Illustrator and Dr. Clayborne Carson. Summary information about these individuals follows:*

- *Christopher Grubbs Illustrator is a professional illustrator, who played an important role in developing the visual imagery for the design submission and enthusiastically contributed to the concepts for the MLK Memorial. Mr. Grubbs collaborates with ROMA Design Group on numerous projects, working closely with the firm in developing sketches and renderings that clearly depict the intended result of proposed design interventions. Christopher Grubbs is known internationally for his architectural illustration work on projects such as the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC; master plans for Shanghai, Hanoi and Saigon South and the Public Domain of the 2000 Sydney Olympic site. His illustration and fine art*

*work has been exhibited in Europe, Japan and throughout the United States; most notably, at the Art Institute of Chicago, the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. A longtime San Francisco resident, he is celebrating his 25th year as an architectural illustrator and fine artist.*

- *Dr. Clayborne Carson has been an active participant and observer of African-American political movements since his undergraduate years at UCLA. He has taught at Stanford University since receiving his doctorate from UCLA in 1975 and is now professor of history and director of the King Papers Project at Stanford. Dr. Carson has also been a visiting professor at American University, the University of California, Berkeley and Emory University and a Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. For the MLK National Memorial, Dr. Carson served as an important advisor, sharing knowledge about the life and teachings of Dr. King, and working with the team to brainstorm and develop key design concepts representing the Man, the Movement and the Message.*

*Dr. Carson's scholarly publications have focused on African-American protest movements and political thought of the period after World War II. His writings have appeared in leading historical journals and numerous encyclopedias, as well as in popular periodicals. His books include the award winning *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*, a study of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (1981) and *Malcolm X: The FBI File* (1991). Dr. Carson has also served as senior advisor for a 14-part award winning public television series on the civil rights movement entitled "Eyes on the Prize" and co-edited the *Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader**

(1991). In addition, he served as on-screen contributor for “Freedom on My Mind”, which was nominated for an Oscar in 1995, as well as for “Chicano”(1996) and “Blacks and Jews” (1997).

*In 1985, Coretta Scott King invited Dr. Carson to direct a long-term project to edit and publish the papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This project was initiated by the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta and is being conducted in association with Stanford University and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Estate.*

**Architect’s Ideas, Intent, and Theme.** See previous section entitled “Winning Design”.

### **Chronology of the MLK Memorial**

1983: Mr. George Sealey is catalyst for meeting with John Harvey, Eddie Madison and Oscar Little to formulate idea of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.

NOV 2, 1983: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is officially designated as a national holiday in the United States. The first such holiday in honor of an African-American.

1984: George Sealey proposes project to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.'s Board of Directors in Cleveland, Ohio. MLK proposal adopted.

AUG 1985: MLK Memorial proposal is reaffirmed at Alpha Phi Alpha General Convention in Atlanta.

1989: Civil Rights monument dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama, at the Southern

Poverty Law Center, designed by Maya Lin, who also designed the Vietnam Memorial.

NOV 12, 1996: Under the administration of General President Milton Davis, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is given authorization by President Clinton and congress to raise funds to construct a King memorial. Ability to raise funds to expire November 12, 2003.

MAR 19, 1997: Newly installed Alpha Phi Alpha General President Adrian Wallace names John Carter, vice president, BellSouth Corporation, to head new team to move the project into the next stage of development.

APR 19, 1997: Second meeting of John Carter Project Team (a conference call). New members Comptroller Frank Jenkins and Treasurer George Reeves.

Kick off of the Alpha Phi Alpha Memorial Brick Project. General President Adrian Wallace becomes the first individual to purchase a fund-raising brick.

MAY 31, 1997: Conference call. Bros. Hebrew Dixon, Darryl Matthews, Harold Navy join project team. June 21, 1997, Atlanta meeting held. Internal kick off to be held in Washington.

JUL 19, 1997: Project Team conference call.

JUL 29, 1997: Presentation made to National Capital Memorial Commission.

AUG 1997: Project Team meeting in Atlanta.

SEP 20, 1997: Project Team meeting in Atlanta, mission statement developed.

DEC 21, 1997: Panel of international architects, designers and artists, under the leadership of Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr., is formed and has first meeting.

JAN 10, 1998: National Capital Memorial Commission votes to recommend Area 1. Project team conference call held.

JAN 29, 1998: Joint Resolution is sent to Speaker of the House Gingrich and Vice President Gore, asking for approval of Area 1.

FEB 27, 1998: Washington Post article is published: "King Memorial Takes a Step - Senate Bill Would Secure Prominent Site to Honor Slain Leader." Joint Resolution 41 is introduced before the Senate by Senators Sarbanes (MD) and Warner (VA). Senator Landrieu (LA) was added as a co-sponsor.

MAR 4, 1998: Joint Resolution 113 introduced before the House by Representatives Morella (MD), Dixon (CA) and Cummings (MD) asking for Site 1 authorization. March 5, 1998 Senator Cleland added as a cosponsor asking for Site 1 authorization.

MAR 7, 1998: Coretta Scott King agrees to serve as chairperson of the project's Honorary Committee.

MAR 7-8, 1998: Face-to-face meeting, Atlanta Renaissance Hotel. Team tours King Center.

MAR 20, 1998: Bill VanAsselt joins team; fills position vacated by Gabriella Neal at Baltimore corporate headquarters.

MAR, 1998: Bro. Bruce Austin brought onto Project Team as internal fund-raising chair.

MAR 24, 1998: John Carter testifies before Senate subcommittee which oversees memorials in the nation's capital. Excerpt: "We now have an opportunity to break the trend of memorials to war and erect a monument which delivers a message of lifelong peace in our land. A memorial which embodies not just the image of Dr. King, but the image of America, which is often called the melting pot of the world."

MAR 1998: Chris Tyson is brought on board a part of the design committee. Kevin Jenkins is brought on board and serves as scribe/recorder.

MAY 1998: Project Team conference call.

May 28, 1998: Charter for the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial approved.

JUN 16, 1998: Conference call: Articles of incorporation approved. House and Senate Bills ready to go to the full floor. Working Title of the project declared: "The MLK Project." Team gives authorization to proceed with obtaining 501 3C.

JUN 22, 1998: House Joint Resolution 113 passed by the United States House of Representatives, giving the project Site I status.

JUN 25, 1998: Senate Joint Resolution 41 was passed by the United States Senate giving the project Site I status.

JUN 26, 1998: News release prepared by project's PR Director Vic Carter-"Congress Gives Unanimous Approval for construction of MLK Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C." Release forwarded to Washington PR firm, Walls Communications, headed by Bro. Lon

Walls. Approximately 30 local and national papers carry the story.

JUL 16, 1998: President Clinton signs Area 1 recommendation.

August 10, 1998: Ana Mollinedo, managing director for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change replaces Isaac Farris on the Project Team.

AUG 15-16, 1998: Project team meets in Washington, D.C. at Renaissance Hotel and tours possible sites.

OCT 1, 1998: National Capital Memorial Commission approved Site #1, Constitutional Gardens.

NOV 10, 1998: Dr. Ed Jackson makes his first presentation to the NCMC today on recommended site of the Constitution Gardens. Commission votes to recommend to the Secretary of Interior this site. National Memorial Commission clears Constitutional Gardens as a site for the project.

DEC 17, 1998: Dr. Jackson and John Carter hold emergency meeting with individual NCPC and CFA Commissions to identify concerns with Constitutional Gardens site

NOV 18, 1998: Project Team conference call.

JAN 15, 1999: BellSouth Corporation sponsored official Web site [www.mlkmemorial.org](http://www.mlkmemorial.org) goes online.

JAN 20, 1999: Project Team joint meeting with members of the Capital Memorial Commission, Capital Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission (about 35 people). No objections to the West Potomac Park/Tidal Basin site. Will be official after voted on in public sessions by each

individual commission. Final approval due by March 5th.

JAN 30-31, 1998: Project Team meeting held in Atlanta.

FEB 15, 1999: Project Team conference call.

FEB 15, 1999: A poster announcing the design competition is prepared and distributed internationally to all schools of architecture, professional community of architecture, designers and artists.

FEB 18, 1999: John Carter and Ed Jackson appear before the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) to present information on the new preferred site, the Tidal Basin. CFA reacts positively to the presentation and several members state afterward that all signs are positive that they will receive approval for their preferred site at the next CFA meeting.

MAR 4, 1999: Appearance before the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)-the NCPC staff prepares an independent analysis of all of our sites and recommends to the NCPC the approval of the Tidal Basin site. Likewise, we again opt to recommend the same site. All but one member of the NCPC are present.

The NCPC votes 6-5 in favor of approving the east end of Constitution Gardens as the site for the memorial, against our recommendation and against the recommendation of their staff. At issue for the five members voting against the motion is an interest to give the foundation an opportunity to prepare more analysis. However, it is important to note that all members who spoke voiced their preference for the Constitution Gardens site.

APR 8, 1999: The Project Team appears before the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) - All commission members are present. Recommendation of the Tidal Basin site are reviewed and the decision of the NCPC is shared with CFA. Several members of the general public speak at the hearing, none of whom completely support this recommendation. The CFA votes unanimously to reject the Constitution Gardens site as an area of possible consideration. They take no vote, however, to approve the preferred site. Instead, they leave the project team with a recommendation to study two additional sites, one on the west end of Constitution Gardens and another on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, as possible locations for the memorial.

MAR 24, 1999: Project team conference call.

APR 1, 1999: Project disbursements, such as payroll, begin to be paid directly from account established for the MLK Project instead of incurring a receivable to Alpha Phi Alpha. Project Manager Carter retires from BellSouth.

APR 6, 1999: Informal Meeting - the Project Team and Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), National Park Service (NPS) and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)—Present are representative from all four organizations participating in the site selection process. NCPC is represented by Reginald Griffith, executive director, and four staff members. The NPS is represented by John Parsons and two staff members. CFA is represented by Charles Atherton, secretary. The Project Team is represented by John H. Carter, Dr. Ed Jackson and Bill VanAsselt. The group decides to extend site approval by three to six months, beginning with the formation of a MLK Interagency

Task Force, composed of those present and any other representatives the group feels appropriate. The purpose of the task force is to conduct a new analysis of four sites (Tidal Basin, east Constitution Gardens, west Constitution Gardens, Lincoln steps) and prepare a compromise position to be taken to the commissions, hopefully in June.

APR 20, 1999: First meeting of the MLK Memorial Interagency Task Force - This task force is made up of members of the Park Service, staff members from all three commissions and the State Historical Preservation Office. The objective of this group is to better define the program, graphically define each site, analyze the sites, outline what might be built at the site and attempt to reach a consensus on a recommended site. The goal is to present the results of this consensus at commission hearings by June 1999. In this first meeting, the group reviews a video of each site and begins developing a recommendation. The next meeting is scheduled for May 3rd.

APR 28, 1999: Project Team conference call.

MAY 5, 1999: Second Meeting of the MLK Memorial Interagency Task Force - The task force agrees to recommend the Tidal Basin site at the June 17 CFA meeting and the July 1 NCPC meeting.

MAY 6, 1999: Application for 501(C)3 approved by the Internal Revenue Service (EIN #52-2145683).

JUN 17, 1999: National Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) - In a unanimous vote on Thursday, June 17th, the CFA gives preliminary approval for a site on the Mall in Washington, D.C. for a National Memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The site, positioned along the northwestern edge of the Tidal Basin, is symbolically located on a direct axis between the national memorials to Presidents Lincoln and Jefferson and next to Roosevelt. The approval, already endorsed by the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Foundation, the National Parks Service and the Washington, D.C. State Historic Preservation Office, paves the way for a final vote of approval by the National Capital Planning Commission on July 1. In his closing remarks, CFA Chairman J. Carter Brown, applauds the efforts of the Memorial Foundation and Alpha Phi Alpha for the thoroughness of their evaluation of potential sites and for the cooperation they have shown the respective approval agencies during negotiations.

JUL 1, 1999: National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)- On Thursday, July 1, 1999, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) rejects the Tidal Basin site proposed by the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc., the National Parks Service and the NCPC staff. This site has previously been approved by the Commission on Fine Arts. An approval on the Tidal Basin location would have been the crowning moment to date, in our quest to honor a man whose ideals, vision, action and eloquence moved a nation and changed the world. The Project Team has every hope and indication that this site would be approved. They worked long and hard to insure that the proper procedures were followed. In response to a request by both commissions, they participate on a joint work group that was convened by the executive director of NCPC to evaluate all available sites. This group is composed of a consortium of people, including representatives from the NCPC, the National Park Service, the Commission on Fine Arts

and the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office. After analyzing all available sites, the unanimous consensus is that the Tidal Basin site is the best location for this memorial. The 8 to 4 negative vote by the NCPC was more than disappointing, it was a cruel blow. It was unexpected and it was the antithesis of what the Project Team was lead to believe would happen. Their plan is to go back to the NCPC on August 5, 1999, with the same recommendation.

JUL 16, 1999: Staff members from Congressional Sponsors meet to discuss strategy to obtain Tidal Basin site. Included are representatives from the offices of Senators Sarbanes and Warner and Representatives Dixon and Morella. The strategy is to get the site back on the agenda for August 5 with appropriate support for passage.

OCT 7, 1999: The foundation is not on the formal agenda of the NCPC. However, Harvey Gantt calls to invite the foundation to attend the executive session of the commission. In the session, Chairman Gantt asks the commission to approve the Tidal Basin site. He also appoints Robert Gaines to chair a special task force of NCPC commissioners and foundation members to work out specification differences.

OCT 12, 1999: Dr. Jackson, Bill VanAsselt and John H. Carter meet with Robert Gaines, Ash Jaan, Jack Finberg and David Colby of the Special NCPC Task Force. The group agrees to twelve conditions for the Tidal Basin site. Mr. Gaines agrees to present these conditions to the full commission.

OCT 29, 1999: An agreement is signed with the Alford Group, Inc. to coordinate internal and external fund raising efforts.

NOV 4, 1999: The NCPC meets in executive session to discuss the recommendations of the task force. Members of the foundation are not allowed in the meeting. The foundation waits in the lobby. Chairman Gantt comes out after the meeting to inform the Foundation that the Commission has accepted the recommendations of the Taskforce. He indicates the issue would be placed on the agenda of the December 2, 1999, public commission meeting.

DEC 2, 1999: The NCPC votes unanimously to rescind its March 4, 1999, action approving the east end of Constitution Gardens and approves a four-acre site adjacent to the Tidal Basin along with the design parameters, as indicated in the October 21, 1999 agreement. The motion is made by Robert Gaines and seconded by Sally Bloomingthal.

DEC 2, 1999: A design specifications package is completed and is ready for mailing to individuals registered for the design competition.

DEC 2, 1999: A Panel of competition assessors is named. These individuals are from the professions of architecture, landscape architecture and fine arts. Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr., Jury Chair, American Institute of Architects, Professional Practice Division, Prof. James Chaffers, Arch.D., AIA University of Michigan, School of Architecture, Charles Correa, Hon. FAIA Bombay, India; Prof. Randolph Hester, Jr., ASLA University of California, Berkeley, Landscape Architecture; William Lawson, FAIA General Services Administration, Washington, D.C.; Prof. Jon Lockard, Artist, University of Michigan, School of Art and Design; Karen Phillisp, FASLA Abyssinian Development Corporation, New York; Prof. LaVerne Wells-Bowie, Florida A&M

University, School of Architecture; Prof. Wu Liangyong, Hon. FAIA Tsinghua University, School of Architecture, Beijing .

DEC 2, 1999: Manning Selvage & Lee and the Calloway Group are selected to do public relations.

DEC 3, 1999: The site approval receives positive press in all major national media, including CNN, NBC, ABC, COX, CBS and NPR. Over 78 positive articles are published in major newspapers, including the front page of the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and the Atlanta Journal and Constitution.

SEP 12, 2000: The winning design is announced, images of the proposed design are displayed.

DEC 4, 2000: Site is formally dedicated.

**Memorial Statistics.** Pending

**Artwork in the Memorial.** Pending.

**The Inscriptions.** Pending.

**The Site Dedication Ceremony.** (From the Foundation website)

*A DEDICATION CEREMONY MARKS THE FUTURE SITE OF THE WASHINGTON, DC, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL:*

*(Washington, DC) Today (December 4, 2000) the site of the future Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial was officially dedicated with approximately 500 people attending the ceremony. National Memorial Project Foundation President Adrian Wallace was joined by several members of Congress to unveil a bronze memorial*



*marker at the site directly across from the Jefferson Memorial.*

*"This dedication ceremony brings us one step closer to memorializing the ideals and values that Dr. King and his movement represented," said Wallace. Many of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity members came to see the unveiling as well as to celebrate, as today marks the fraternity's 94th anniversary. The memorial is a project of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., of which Dr. King was a member. Rep. Connie Morella, (R-Md.), a longstanding supporter of the fraternity and its mission to develop this memorial said during the ceremony, "this morning, we celebrate the life, the leadership, the faith, and the courage of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He richly deserves this honor, for Dr. King dedicated his life to working for equality and justice for all."*

*Rep. Morella introduced legislation in 1996 that later became law in 1998 that provided for the construction of the memorial in the central monument core of Washington. This legislation passed Congress and President Clinton signed the legislation on July 16, 1998, which became Public Law 105-201. Other congressional supporters spoke during the ceremony including, Sen. Paul Sarbanes, (D-Md.) and Sen. John Warner, (R-Va.). "This memorial will serve as the signpost along the road to equality and racial harmony for those who were not alive when Dr. King lived," said Sen. Sarbanes, who spearheaded the legislation to place the memorial on the Mall. "It will also serve as a reminder that the goals toward which he strove must be attained in order for America to remain strong and true to its governing principles."*

*The ceremony featured prayers to commemorate Dr. King and what he represented. Convocations were offered by*

*Rev. Nathan Baxter of the National Cathedral, Rabbi Floyd Herman of the Har Sinai Congregation in Baltimore, Md. and Rev. Manuel Burdusi of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox in Baltimore.*

*The winning design for the memorial was selected September 13, 2000. The architectural firm ROMA Design Group of San Francisco, Calif. created the winning design, which was among more than 900 entries judged by an international panel of renowned architects and designers.*

*The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial will be constructed on a four-acre site surrounding the Tidal Basin, built in a line-of-sight between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.*

*After receiving site approval by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in December 1999, the Foundation embarked on the search for a design. By May, the Foundation had received more than 900 submissions from architects, landscape architects, students, sculptors and professors representing more than 34 countries. The response was so overwhelming that the Foundation used the MCI Center to accommodate the design judging by the international panel of jurors.*

*With both a site and design selected, the Washington, DC, Martin Luther King Memorial Project Foundation continues to work with various commissions to ensure that the design meets building specifications. The foundation has until November 12, 2003, to complete a design, raise the money for the memorial and break ground.*

**The Legacy: Relevant Celebrations or Gatherings at the Site.** Pending.

**Possible Themes and Universal Concepts for Rangers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.**

- Perseverance
- Equality
- Peace
- Unity
- Hope
- Community

**Biographical Sketch of the Artist.**  
Pending.

**Chronology of Dr. King's Life**

January 15, 1929. Martin Luther King, Jr. is born in Atlanta.

February 25, 1948. King is ordained and appointed associate pastor to his father, the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

June 8, 1948. King graduates from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

April 8, 1951. King graduates from Crozer Theological Seminar with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.

January 22, 1952. Martin Luther King, Jr. becomes a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated at Boston University (Sigma Chapter).

June 18, 1953. King marries Miss Coretta Scott, a concert musician, at her home in Marion, Alabama.

October 31, 1954. King is installed as the twentieth pastor at Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

June 5, 1955. King receives his Ph.D. degree in Systematic Theology from Boston University.

April 4, 1968. Dr. King is assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Lorraine Hotel, Balcony A. Resolution for permanent memorial service to King considered at General Convention.

**Short Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.** from the Stanford University King Papers Project, written by Clayborne Carson:

*One of the world's best known advocates of non-violent social change strategies, Martin Luther King, Jr., synthesized ideas drawn from many different cultural traditions. Born in Atlanta on January 15, 1929, King's roots were in the African-American Baptist church. He was the grandson of the Rev. A. D. Williams, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist church and a founder of Atlanta's NAACP chapter, and the son of Martin Luther King, Sr., who succeeded Williams as Ebenezer's pastor and also became a civil rights leader.*

*Although, from an early age, King resented religious emotionalism and questioned literal interpretations of scripture, he nevertheless greatly admired black social gospel proponents such as his father who saw the church as a instrument for improving the lives of African Americans. Morehouse College president Benjamin Mays and other proponents of Christian social activism influenced King's decision after his junior year at Morehouse to become a minister and thereby serve society. His continued skepticism, however, shaped his subsequent theological studies at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, and at Boston University, where he received a doctorate in systematic theology in 1955. Rejecting offers for*

*academic positions, King decided while completing his Ph. D. requirements to return to the South and accepted the pastorate of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.*

*On December 5, 1955, five days after Montgomery civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to obey the city's rules mandating segregation on buses, black residents launched a bus boycott and elected King as president of the newly-formed Montgomery Improvement Association. As the boycott continued during 1956, King gained national prominence as a result of his exceptional oratorical skills and personal courage. His house was bombed and he was convicted along with other boycott leaders on charges of conspiring to interfere with the bus company's operations. Despite these attempts to suppress the movement, Montgomery bus were desegregated in December, 1956, after the United States Supreme Court declared Alabama's segregation laws unconstitutional. In 1957, seeking to build upon the success of the Montgomery boycott movement, King and other southern black ministers founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As SCLC's president, King emphasized the goal of black voting rights when he spoke at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom. During 1958, he published his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*. The following year, he toured India, [and] increased his understanding of Gandhian non-violent strategies. At the end of 1959, he resigned from Dexter and returned to Atlanta where the SCLC headquarters was located and where he also could assist his father as pastor of Ebenezer.*

*Although increasingly portrayed as the pre-eminent black spokesperson, King did not*

*mobilize mass protest activity during the first five years after the Montgomery boycott ended. While King moved cautiously, southern black college students took the initiative, launching a wave of sit-in protests during the winter and spring of 1960. King sympathized with the student movement and spoke at the founding meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in April 1960, but he soon became the target of criticisms from SNCC activists determined to assert their independence.*

*Even King's decision in October, 1960, to join a student sit-in in Atlanta did not allay the tensions, although presidential candidate John F. Kennedy's sympathetic telephone call to King's wife, Coretta Scott King, helped attract crucial black support for Kennedy's successful campaign. The 1961 "Freedom Rides," which sought to integrate southern transportation facilities, demonstrated that neither King nor Kennedy could control the expanding protest movement spearheaded by students. Conflicts between King and younger militants were also evident when both SCLC and SNCC assisted the Albany (Georgia) Movement's campaign of mass protests during December of 1961 and the summer of 1962.*

*After achieving few of his objectives in Albany, King recognized the need to organize a successful protest campaign free of conflicts with SNCC. During the spring of 1963, he and his staff guided mass demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama, where local white police officials were known from their anti-black attitudes. Clashes between black demonstrators and police using police dogs and fire hoses generated newspaper headlines through the world. In June, President Kennedy reacted to the Birmingham protests and the obstinacy of segregationist Alabama*

*Governor George Wallace by agreeing to submit broad civil rights legislation to Congress (which eventually passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964). Subsequent mass demonstrations in many communities culminated in a march on August 28, 1963, that attracted more than 250,000 protesters to Washington, D. C. Addressing the marchers from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" oration.*

*During the year following the March, King's renown grew as he became Time magazine's Man of the Year and, in December 1964, the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Despite fame and accolades, however, King faced many challenges to his leadership. Malcolm X's (1927-1965) message of self-defense and black nationalism expressed the discontent and anger of northern, urban blacks more effectively than did King's moderation. During the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march, King and his lieutenants were able to keep intra-movement conflicts sufficiently under control to bring about passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, but while participating in a 1966 march through Mississippi, King encountered strong criticism from "Black Power" proponent Stokely Carmichael.*

*Shortly afterward white counter-protesters in the Chicago area physically assaulted King in the Chicago area during an unsuccessful effort to transfer non-violent protest techniques to the urban North. Despite these leadership conflicts, King remained committed to the use of non-violent techniques. Early in 1968, he initiated a Poor Peoples campaign designed to confront economic problems that had not been addressed by early civil rights reforms.*

*King's effectiveness in achieving his objectives was limited not merely by divisions among blacks, however, but also by the increasing resistance he encountered from national political leaders. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's already extensive efforts to undermine King's leadership were intensified during 1967 as urban racial violence escalated and King criticized American intervention in the Vietnam war. King had lost the support of many white liberals, and his relations with the Lyndon Johnson administration were at a low point when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, while seeking to assist a garbage workers' strike in Memphis. After his death, King remained a controversial symbol of the African-American civil rights struggle, revered by many for his martyrdom on behalf of non-violence and condemned by others for his militancy and insurgent views.*

**Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Biographical Sketch.** (from LSU Libraries, Mitchell Brown, Compiler)

***Birth and Family***

*Martin Luther King, Jr. was born at noon Tuesday, January 15, 1929, at the family home, 501 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Charles Johnson was the attending physician. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the first son and second child born to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and Alberta Williams King. Other children born to the Kings were Christine King Farris and the late Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams King. Martin Luther King's maternal grandparents were the Reverend Adam Daniel Williams, second pastor of Ebenezer Baptist, and Jenny Parks Williams. His paternal grandparents, James Albert and Delia King, were sharecroppers on a farm in Stockbridge, Georgia.*

*He married the former Coretta Scott, younger daughter of Obadiah and Bernice McMurray Scott of Marion, Alabama on June 18, 1953. The marriage ceremony took place on the lawn of the Scott's home in Marion. The Reverend King, Sr., performed the service, with Mrs. Edythe Bagley, the sister of Mrs. King, maid of honor, and the Reverend A.D. King, the brother of Martin Luther King, Jr., best man.*

*Four children were born to Dr. and Mrs. King:*

*Yolanda Denise (November 17, 1955  
Montgomery, Alabama)*

*Martin Luther III (October 23, 1957  
Montgomery, Alabama)*

*Dexter Scott (January 30, 1961 Atlanta,  
Georgia)*

*Bernice Albertine (March 28, 1963  
Atlanta, Georgia)*

***Education***

*Martin Luther King, Jr. began his education at the Yonge Street Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. Following Yonge School, he was enrolled in David T. Howard Elementary School. He also attended the Atlanta University Laboratory School and Booker T. Washington High School. Because of his high score on the college entrance examinations in his junior year of high school, he advanced to Morehouse College without formal graduation from Booker T. Washington. Having skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades, Dr. King entered Morehouse at the age of fifteen. "A Comparison of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Wieman," was completed in 1955, and the Ph.D. degree was awarded on June 5, 1955.*

***Honorary Degree(s)***

*Dr. King was awarded honorary degrees from numerous colleges and universities in the United States and several foreign countries. They include the following:*

*1957*

- ♦ *Doctor of Human Letters, Morehouse College*
- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Howard University*
- ♦ *Doctor of Divinity, Chicago Theological Seminary*

*1958*

- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Morgan State College*
- ♦ *Doctor of Humanities, Central State College*

1959

- ♦ *Doctor of Divinity, Boston University*

1961

- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Lincoln University*
- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, University of Bridgeport*

1962

- ♦ *Doctor of Civil Laws, Bard College*

1963

- ♦ *Doctor of Letters, Keuka College*

1964

- ♦ *Doctor of Divinity, Wesleyan College*
- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Jewish Theological Seminary*
- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Yale University*
- ♦ *Doctor of Divinity, Springfield College*

1965

- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Hofstra University*
- ♦ *Doctor of Human Letters, Oberlin College*
- ♦ *Doctor of Social Science, Amsterdam Free University*
- ♦ *Doctor of Divinity, St. Peter's College*

1967

- ♦ *Doctor of Civil Law, University of New Castle Upon Tyne*
- ♦ *Doctor of Laws, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa*

*Martin Luther King entered the Christian ministry and was ordained in February 1948 at the age of nineteen at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Following his ordination, he became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer. Upon completion of his studies at Boston University, he accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama. He was the pastor of Dexter Avenue from September 1954 to November*

*1959, when he resigned to move to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1960 until his death in 1968, he was co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church and President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. King was a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement. He was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization which was responsible for the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott from 1955 to 1956 (381 days). He was arrested thirty times for his participation in civil rights activities. He was a founder and president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1957 to 1968. He was also vice president of the national Sunday School and Baptist Teaching Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention.*

*He was a member of several national and local boards of directors and served on the boards of trustees of several institutions and agencies. Dr. King was elected to membership in several learned societies including the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences.*

*Awards*

*Dr. King received several hundred awards for his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. Among them were:*

- ♦ *Selected one of the most outstanding personalities of the year by Time, 1957.*
- ♦ *Listed in Who's Who in America, 1957.*
- ♦ *The Spingarn Medal from NAACP, 1957.*
- ♦ *The Russwurm Award from the National Newspaper Publishers, 1957.*

- ♦ *The Second Annual Achievement -- The Guardian Association of the Police Department of New York, 1958.*
- ♦ *Link Magazine of New Delhi, India, listed Dr. King as one of the sixteen world leaders who had contributed most to the advancement of freedom during 1959.*
- ♦ *Named Man of the Year by Time, 1963.*
- ♦ *Named American of the Decade by Laundry, Dry Cleaning, and Die Workers International Union, 1963.*
- ♦ *The John Dewey Award, from the United Federation of Teachers, 1964.*
- ♦ *The John F. Kennedy Award, from the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago, 1964.*
- ♦ *The Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. At age 35, Dr. King was the youngest man, the second American, and the third black man awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.*
- ♦ *The Marcus Garvey Prize for Human Rights, presented by the Jamaican Government. (posthumously) 1968.*
- ♦ *The Rosa L. Parks Award, presented by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. (posthumously) 1968.*

*The preceding awards and others, along with numerous citations, are in the Archives of the Martin Luther King, Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.*

### **Speeches**

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital personality of the modern era. His*

*lectures and remarks stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation; the movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life; his courageous and selfless devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities; his charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in the nation and abroad.*

*Dr. King's concept of somebodiness gave black and poor people a new sense of worth and dignity. His philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and his strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and reordered its priorities. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, for example, went to Congress as a result of the Selma to Montgomery march. His wisdom, his words, his actions, his commitment, and his dreams for a new cast of life, are intertwined with the American experience.*

*Dr. King's speech at the march on Washington in 1963, his acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, his last sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church, and his final speech in Memphis are among his most famous utterances (I've Been to the Mountaintop). The Letter from Birmingham Jail ranks among the most important American documents.*

### **Death**

*Dr. King was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray. James Earl Ray was arrested in London, England on June 8, 1968 and returned to Memphis, Tennessee to stand trial for the assassination of Dr. King. On March 9, 1969, before coming to trial, he entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to ninety-nine years*

*in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. Dr. King had been in Memphis to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable conditions. His funeral services were held April 9, 1968, in Atlanta at Ebenezer Church and on the campus of Morehouse College, with the President of the United States proclaiming a day of mourning and flags being flown at half-staff. The area*

*where Dr. King was entombed is located on Freedom Plaza and surrounded by the Freedom Hall Complex of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site, a 23 acre area was listed as a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1977, and was made a National Historic Site on October 10, 1980 by the U.S. Department of the Interior.*



## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Speeches.**

### **“I have a Dream”**

Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963:

*Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.*

*But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

*It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.*

*It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a*

*beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.*

*We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.*

*And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.*

*I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.*

*Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.*

*I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.*

*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."*

*I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.*

*I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.*

*I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.*

*I have a dream today.*

*I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.*

*I have a dream today.*

*I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.*

*This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."*

*And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!*

*Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!  
Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!  
But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!  
Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!  
Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every  
mountainside, let freedom ring.*

*When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every  
hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day  
when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles,  
Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of  
the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are  
free at last!"*

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