

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

# Meaning of Memorials and Monuments

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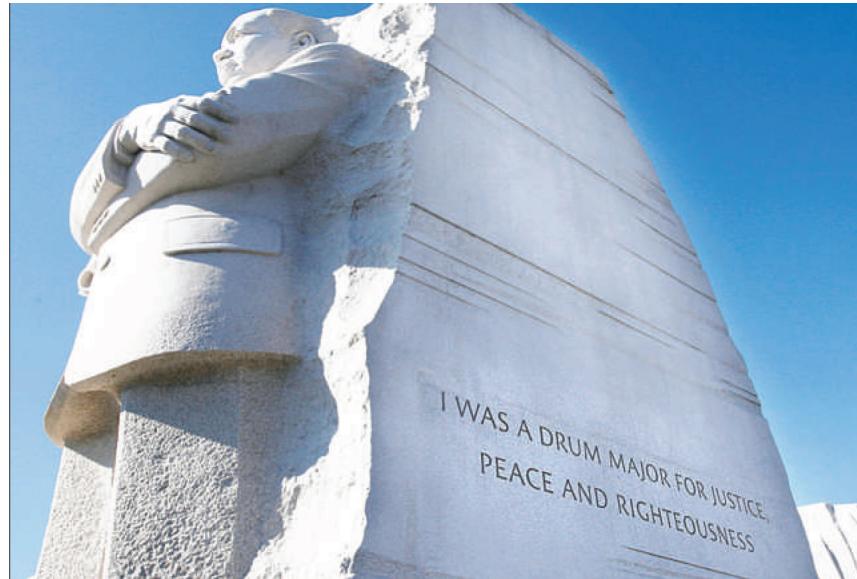


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## Written in Stone

Dr. King ministered to the congregation of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, he gave the “Drum Major Instinct” sermon. He concludes his sermon indicating to the congregation how he would want to be remembered.

*“... Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all the other shallow things will not matter. I won’t have any money to leave behind. I won’t have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. ...”*



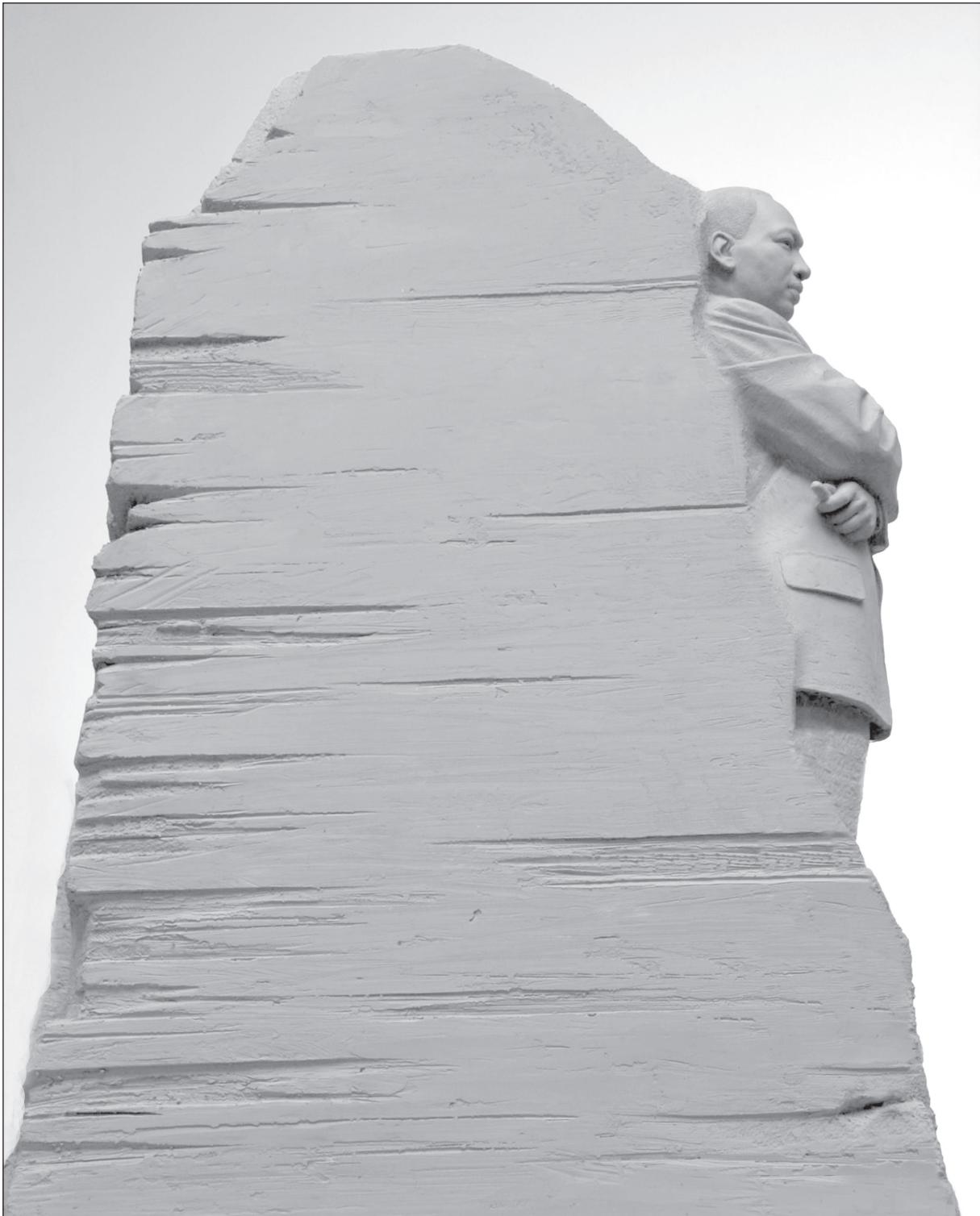
JACQUELINE MARTIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The “drum major” paraphrase at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial struck some as boastful and deviating from the civil rights leader’s intent.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## In Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Own Words

You have the opportunity to select the quotation from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s works that will appear on his memorial. Read Dr. King's writings. Which words do you think would inspire your generation? After confirming the wording of the quotation, print the quotation on the stone.



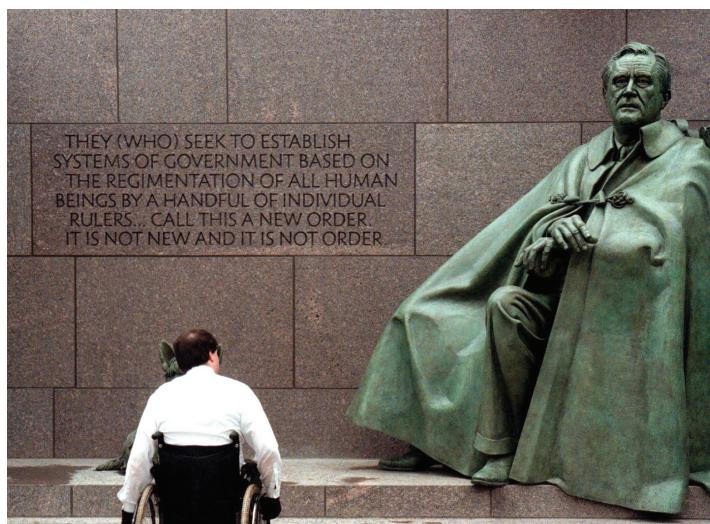
COURTESY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL PROJECT

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# Words to Live By

Selecting the proper words to appear on monuments, memorials and edifices requires knowledge, research and sensitivity to language. The design concept as well as space available also influence the quotation to be selected.

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**



DAYNA SMITH/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Thomas Jefferson Memorial**



ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

**The United States Supreme Court edifice**



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**The Tomb of the Unknowns**



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

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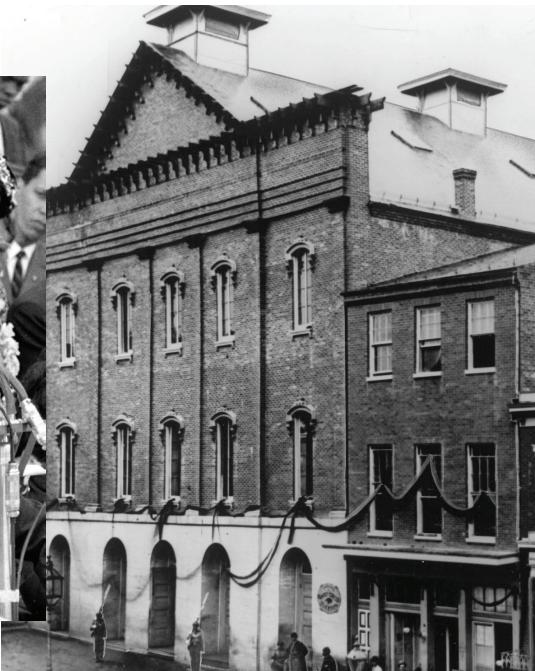
# Why Are Memorials and Monuments Significant?

The person or event associated with the memorial

The individual who is remembered



ASSOCIATED PRESS



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Local icon



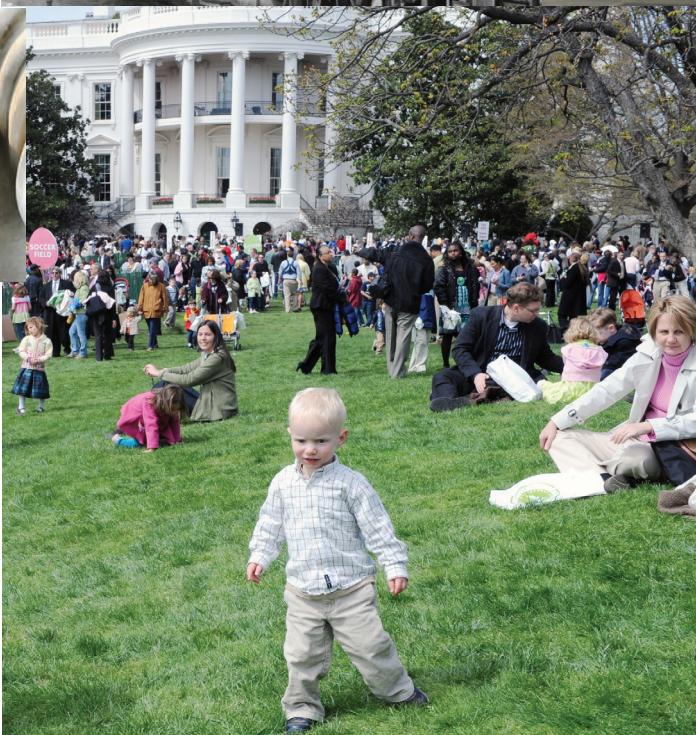
SADIE DINGFELDER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Some places begin as memorials or monuments. Others become icons and landmarks.**

**The Lincoln Memorial is remarkable for the president it honors, the events that have taken place there (such as Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech), and personal visits to reflect on Lincoln's words, D.C.'s monuments and our country.**



MARK GAIL/ THE WASHINGTON POST



Our personal experience

**Ford's Theatre would be just another venue for drama if not for the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln there.**

**Ben's Chili Bowl has famous and local diners. The White House opens its doors for state events and the annual egg roll.**

**The Washington National Cathedral is a spiritual haven and a place to honor individuals. In May 2012 Rosa Parks was honored in the Human Rights Porch with her portrait in stone.**

BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

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# Eisenhower Memorial Design Concept



RENDERS COURTESY OF GEHRY PARTNERS, LLP

*“Because no man is really a man who has lost out of himself all of the boy, I want to speak first of the dreams of a barefoot boy.”*

— Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 22, 1945



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Design a Memorial

We wish to remember the individuals who touched our lives. We want other generations to know them and be inspired by them. Grand and simple edifices, large and intimate gardens, projects influencing many or nourishing a few have been created to continue a person's ideals and actions.

Artists and architects who have been asked to create memorials have considered the process, the mission and the outcome of their work. When Maya Lin reflected on her design of the Vietnam Memorial, she wrote:

I had a simple impulse to cut into the earth. I imagined taking a knife and cutting into the earth, opening it up, an initial violence and pain that in time would heal. The grass would grow back, but the initial cut would remain a pure flat surface in the earth with a polished, mirrored surface. ... The need for the names to be on the memorial would become the memorial; there was no need to embellish the design further. The people and their names would allow everyone to respond and remember.

If you were to design a memorial, whom would you want to remember?  
What form would the memorial take and how will it reflect the individual?

### Would It Be

- A private place
- A public space
- Symbolic in its placement
- An action rather than a permanent monument

### Would You Plant

- an evergreen
- a flowering tree
- a flower garden
- a vegetable garden

### Would You Create

- an oasis
- a place of meditation
- a playground
- a water feature

### Would You Remember the Individual Through

- an after-school program
- an award in the person's name
- a scholarship
- naming a building in his or her honor