

Remembering
**MARTIN
LUTHER
KING JR.**

I WAS A DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE
PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS



A Timeline of King's Life

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., leading light of the American Civil Rights movement, was an advocate for nonviolent resistance to injustice and is recognized as a worldwide leader in civil rights, poverty and other injustice.

From The King Center, here is a timeline of notable events in his life:

JAN. 15, 1929: Born in Atlanta to the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King.

1944-1948: Attends Morehouse College in Atlanta.

1948-1951: Attends Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.

JUNE 18, 1953: Married Coretta Scott in Marion, Alabama.

1954: Accepts job as pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

1955: Graduates a doctor from Boston University's School of Theology.

NOV. 17, 1955: Daughter, Yolanda Denise, born in

Montgomery.

DECEMBER 1955: Appointed head of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which was formed to protest Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to move to give up her bus seat to a white man. King became one of the leaders of the Montgomery bus boycott, which eventually led to the 1956 Supreme Court decision overturning Alabama's bus segregation laws.

JAN. 10, 1957: King, along with C.K. Steele, Fred Shuttlesworth and T.J. Jemison, form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King is the president. The group aims to coordinate civil rights activities in the South.

OCT. 23, 1957: Son Martin Luther III born in Montgomery.

NOV. 20, 1957: First book, "Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story," published.

SEPT. 20, 1958: Izola Curry attempts to kill King at a Harlem book signing. She stabbed him with a letter opener.

1960: Moves to Atlanta and, along with his father, becomes co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

JAN. 30, 1961: Son Dexter Scott born in Atlanta.

MARCH 28, 1963: Daughter Bernice Albertine born in Atlanta.

APRIL 16, 1963: Writes "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" after being arrested during demon-

strations for civil rights in Birmingham, Alabama.

AUG. 26, 1963: Gives the famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

DECEMBER 1964: Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1966: Moves to Chicago and begins to fight against poverty.

APRIL 4, 1967: Speaks out against the Vietnam War during a speech in New York.

DECEMBER 1967: Begins the Poor People's Campaign.

MARCH 28, 1968: Leads a march supporting striking Memphis sanitation workers.

APRIL 4, 1968: Assassinated by James Earl Ray at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

Teaching Kids About King

Civil rights is a complicated issue for even grown-ups to work out and Martin Luther King Jr. Day is more than just a day off school. Here are some activities you and your family can do together to help children understand King and the civil rights movement.

VISIT THE LIBRARY

Hit the local library and help your child find some age-appropriate books about King and his message. Let them look up and listen to or watch parts of the “I Have A Dream” speech.

MAKE YOUR OWN BOOK

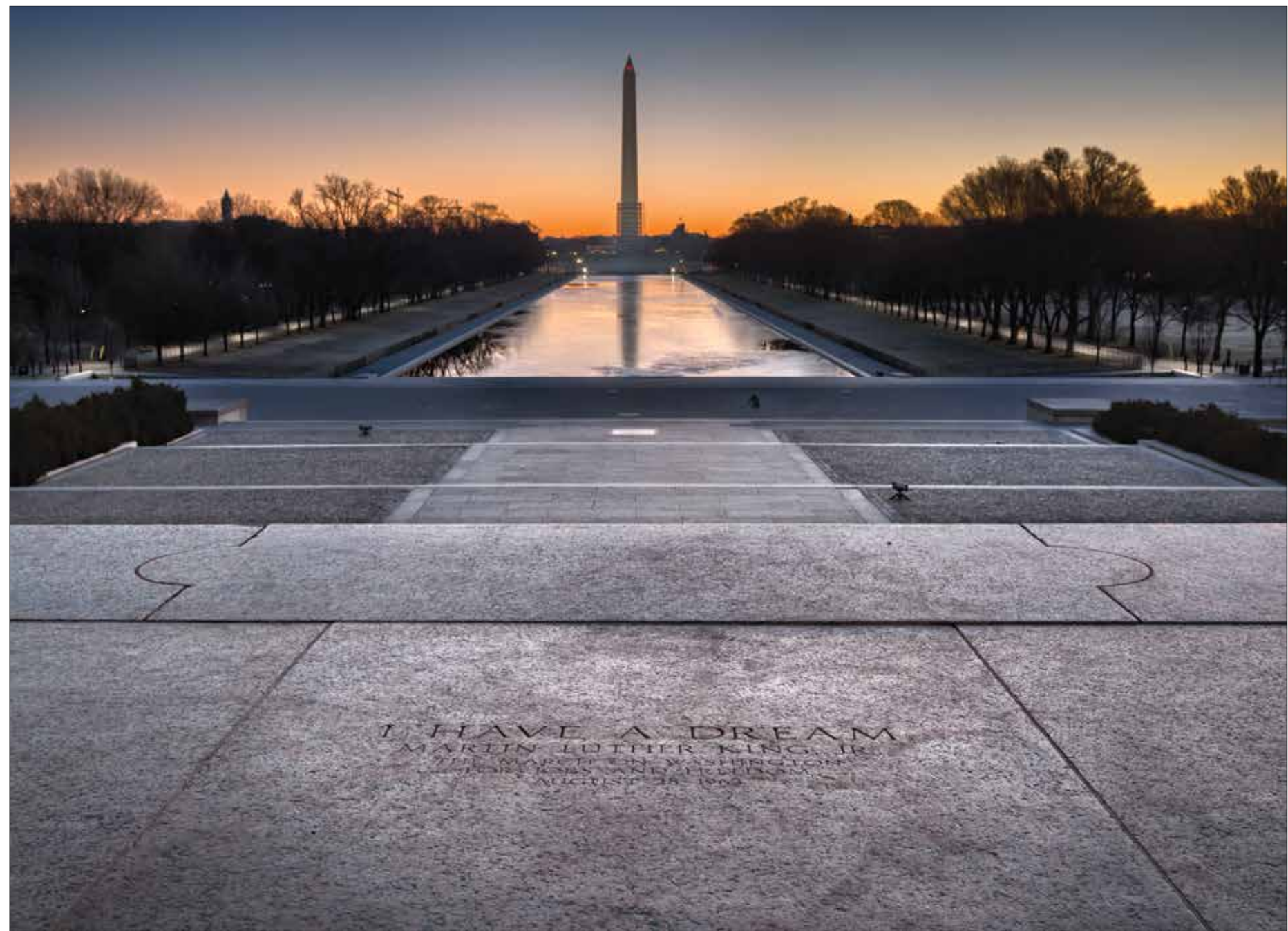
Watch or listen to some of King’s speeches and have children create their own picture books about what freedom means. Get as crafty as you like with what you have on hand or go all out and make a family trip to the art supply store. For older kids, make a collage of words and phrases from King’s speeches.

VISIT LOCAL CIVIL RIGHTS SITES

Research your area and find sites that were once segregated or that otherwise preserve civil rights history and make a visit. Or find a statue or place that honors King and his legacy. If you are lucky enough to visit the nation’s capitol, you’ll find many historic sites and monuments related to King.

VISIT ANOTHER CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS VENUE

King’s faith was a pillar of his work for nonviolent resistance to injustice. Visit a dif-



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ferent house of worship to learn more about other religions and cultures. Share your thoughts and feelings about a different service with

your kids and talk about how even though we are all unique, there are certain things, like faith, that can bring us together.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Kindness goes a long way toward acceptance. In honor of King, set aside time to do

good works as a family. Volunteer at a homeless shelter, pick up a city park, clean a playground. Work for a better world for all of us.

Spotlight: Rosa Parks

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Louise Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus.

By staying seated, she stood up to racial injustice in America and helped spark a wave of protest for civil rights in the United States.

Keep reading for more about this contemporary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

EARLY LIFE

Rosa Louise McCauley was born Feb. 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, to James and Leona Edwards McCauley. She had one brother, Sylvester, who was born two years later. She grew up in Pine Level, Alabama, and finished her education there at age 11. McCauley then enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls before going on to the Alabama State Teacher's College High School. She married Raymond Parks Dec. 18, 1931.

LIVING FOR JUSTICE

Raymond Parks was an activist to free the Scottsboro Boys, three black teenagers jailed and accused of raping two white women on an Alabama

train in 1931. The case is now regarded as a miscarriage of justice by using all-white juries to convict, repeatedly, the teenagers. Both Raymond and Rosa Parks participated in NAACP programs, where Rosa served as secretary and youth leader of the local branch. Rosa's 1955 arrest sparked a wave of protests and the Montgomery bus boycott which lasted 381 days and featured King as a spokesperson.

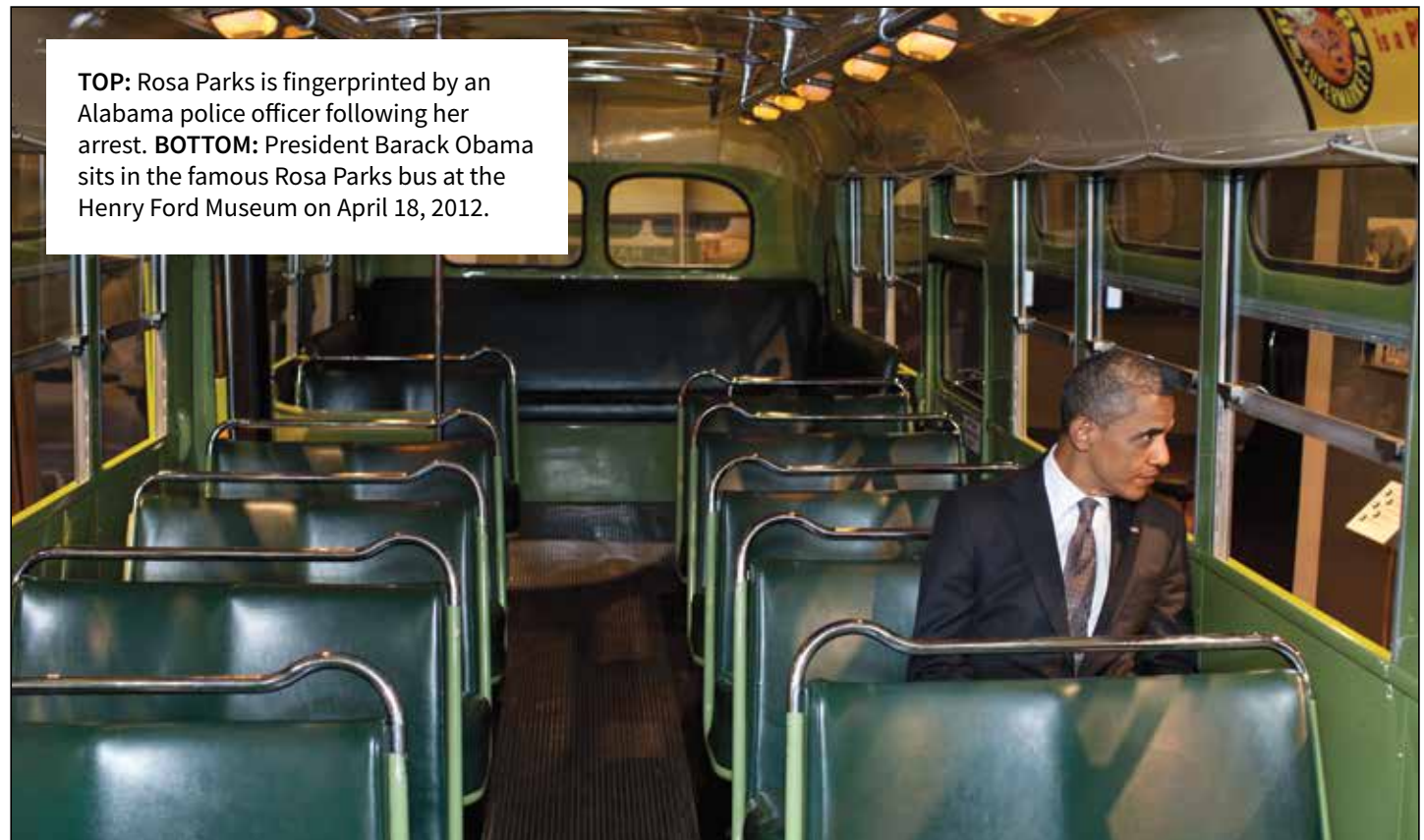
LATER YEARS

Rosa Parks moved to Detroit in 1957, where she became a deaconess in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She also worked for Rep. John Conyers of Michigan and helped found the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development for youth.

Rosa Parks holds more than 43 honorary doctorate degrees and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. She died Oct. 24, 2005.



ASSOCIATED PRESS



TOP: Rosa Parks is fingerprinted by an Alabama police officer following her arrest. **BOTTOM:** President Barack Obama sits in the famous Rosa Parks bus at the Henry Ford Museum on April 18, 2012.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



A Legacy of Inspiration

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words continue to inspire more than 50 years after his death. Here are some notable quotes from King from The King Center.

"I know this whole experience is very difficult for you to adjust to, especially in your condition of pregnancy, but as I said to you yesterday this is the cross that we must bear for the freedom of our people."

— letter from King to Coretta Scott King from prison in Reidsville, Georgia, Oct. 1, 1960.

"Your courageous action today reveals not only

your commitment to a campaign promise but also to the principles of justice and freedom so basic to our democratic heritage."

— telegram from King to President John F. Kennedy upon the Nov. 20, 1962, issuance of Executive Order 11063, which mandated an end to housing discrimination.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

— letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

"God never intended for one group of people to live in superfluous inordinate wealth, while others live in abject deadening poverty."

— Strength to Love, Aug. 11, 1963

"With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful

symphony of brotherhood."

— A Knock at Midnight, Aug. 9, 1964

"This tortuous road which has led from Montgomery, Alabama, to Oslo bears witness to this truth. This is a road over which millions of Negroes are traveling to find a new sense of dignity. This same road has opened for all Americans a new era of progress and hope. It has led to a new civil rights bill, and it will, I am convinced, be widened and lengthened into a super highway of justice as Negro and white men in increasing numbers create alliances to overcome their common problems."

— Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, Dec. 10, 1964

"Without hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. Se we must help time and realize that the time is always ripe to do right."

— Oberlin College Commencement, Aug. 1, 1965

"What, then, can I say to the Vietcong, or to Castro, or to Mao as a faithful minister to Jesus Christ? Can I threaten them with death, or must I not share with them my life?"

— Why I Am Opposed to the War in Vietnam, April 30, 1967

"All men are brothers because they are children of a common father."

— The Drum Major Instinct, Feb. 4, 1968

"It's all right to talk about 'streets flowing with milk and honey,' but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can't eat three square meals a day. It's all right to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee."

— I've Been to the Mountaintop, April 3, 1968



Spotlight: Ralph Abernathy

Ralph Abernathy was a fellow pastor and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s chief aide during the American civil rights movement. Keep reading to out more about the extraordinary life of this man.

EARLY YEARS

Born in Linden, Alabama, on March 11, 1926, Abernathy was the son of farmer William L. Abernathy and Louivery Bell Abernathy. After serving in the Army during World War II, he became a pastor and graduated from Alabama State University and Atlanta University. Abernathy first befriended King after hearing him preach in Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

In 1952, Abernathy became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Montgomery. He was also active in the NAACP and chaired a committee on the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling.

Abernathy and King helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott and the Montgomery Improvement Association after the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man. During

the civil rights movement, King and Abernathy relied on and supported each other, even being jailed together 17 times.

As they had done in Montgomery, King and Abernathy worked together in Atlanta to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where Abernathy initially served as secretary-treasurer, then vice president. After King's 1968 assassination, Abernathy took up the mantle of leadership at the SCLC and in King's other initiatives, such as the march for Memphis sanitation workers and the Poor People's Campaign.

LATER YEARS

In 1977, Abernathy left the SCLC and returned to pastoral work at the West Hunter Avenue Baptist Church in Atlanta. He also staged an unsuccessful run for Congress. Abernathy published his autobiography in 1989, "The Walls Came Tumbling Down."

Love and Nonviolence

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was a staunch believer that violence was not the way to resist injustice.

He and his supporters believed in transforming Christian love into powerful peaceful change through grassroots organizing and nonviolent protests such as marches and boycotts.

AGAPE

Agape is a term largely found in Christian belief that means a love that spontaneous, unmotivated, groundless and creative. The term is at the heart of King's belief in a knowable God and that love and nonviolence could fix America's racial problems, says the King Encyclopedia maintained by Stanford University's The Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute.

"At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love," King said. "When we rise to love on the agape level, we love men not because we like them, not because their attitudes and ways appeal to us, but we love them because God loves them. Here we rise to the position of loving the person who does the

evil deed while hating the deed that the person does."

NONVIOLENCE

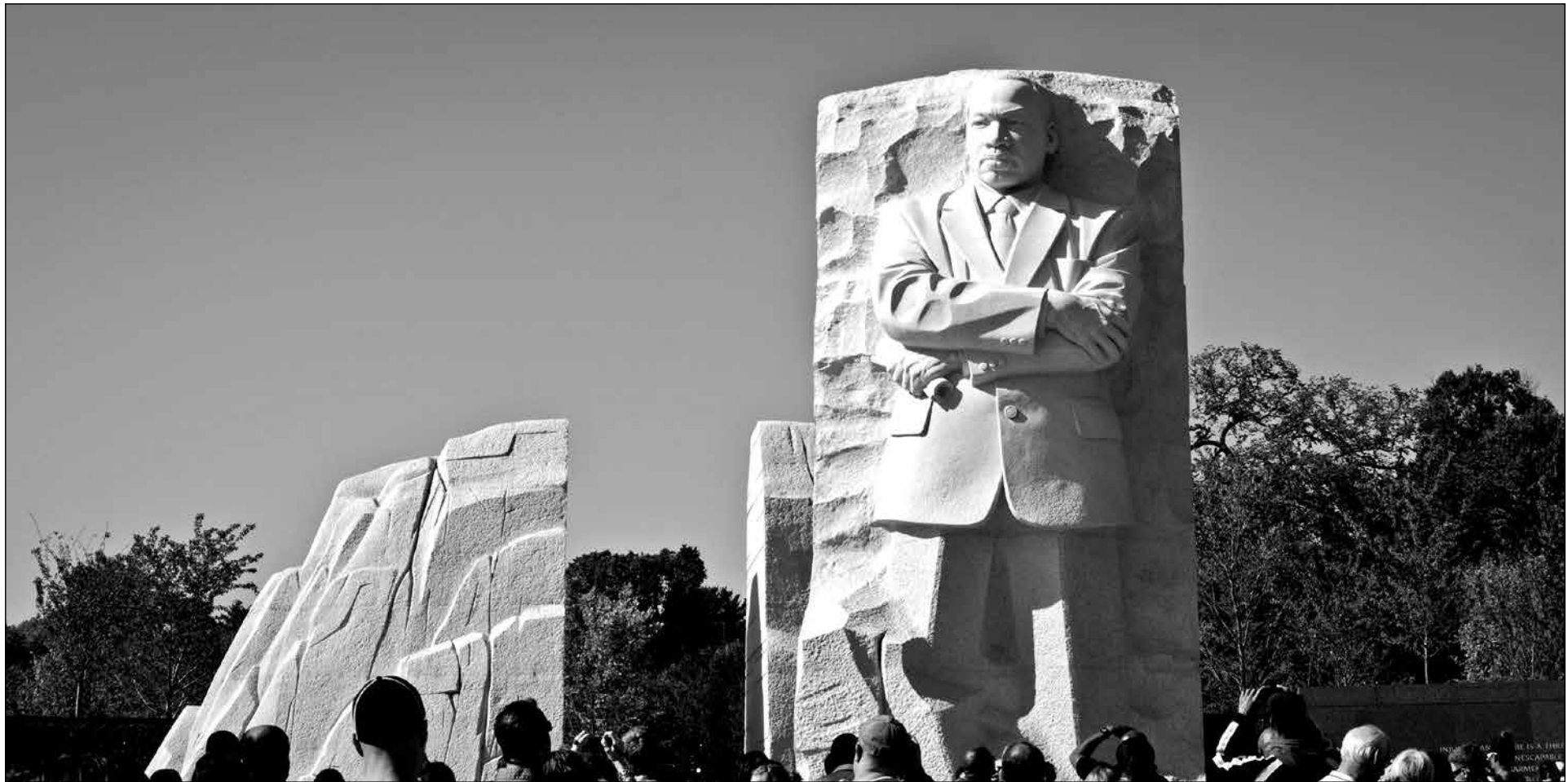
King was introduced to nonviolence when he read Henry David Thoreau's "Essay on Civil Disobedience" as a freshman at Morehouse College. He was fascinated, he wrote, by the "idea of refusing to cooperate with an evil system." During his education, King refined his ideas about nonviolent protest and social reform, but he didn't put it into practice until the Montgomery bus boycott.

To King, nonviolence had six principles, according to the Stanford University encyclopedia. First, that evil can be resisted without violence. Second, that through nonviolence, the protester seeks to win the friendship and understanding of the opponent, not humiliate him. Thirdly, that evil, not the people perpetrating the evil, be opposed. Fourth, that people committed to nonviolence must be willing to suffer without retribution and suffering can be redemptive. Fifth, that nonviolence avoids both physical violence and the "internal violence of the spirit," meaning the protester refuses to shoot his opponent but also refuses to hate him. Lastly, the protester must believe in the future and be convinced that the universe is on the side of justice.

"At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love."

— Martin Luther King Jr.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The MLK Memorial

Rising 30 feet above the Tidal Basin in Washington D.C. is a granite statue of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that memorializes the man and his role in the American civil rights movement. Dedicated in 2011, the park sits at 1964 Independence Ave., S.W., with the address memorializing the passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964.

THE DESIGN

Congress authorized King's fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, to establish a memorial in the nation's capitol in 1996. ROMA Design Group's plan won an international competition with a design that paid homage to a line from King's "I Have a Dream" speech: "With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.:"

The design depicts King's image, the Stone of Hope,

emerging from a Mountain of Despair. Each part of the monument incorporates scrape marks to symbolize struggle and movement.

THE SCULPTURE

Chinese Master Lei Yixin became the official sculptor of the monument in 2007. According to the National Parks Service, Lei filled his studio with photographs of King. He worked with the foundation and the King family to

choose the material, a shrimp pink granite, and to generate the final likeness. More than 150 granite blocks were sent to Lei's Changsha, China, studio, where he assembled and sculpted 80 percent of the work. The statue was then shipped back stateside, and Lei completed it onsite.

The quotes engraved on the memorial were done over more than two years by Nick Benson, a third generation stone carver.

CONTROVERSY

The memorial originally included a paraphrased quote from King's 1968 drum major sermon. It said, "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness." The original quote from the sermon, which talked about the danger of the personal ego and asked the congregation to serve others, read, "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 of the other shallow things will not matter."

Eminent poet and author Maya Angelou said the paraphrase made King "look like an arrogant twit," and the phrase seemed to be at odds with the sermon's message of selflessness. In 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar decided to remove the quote, and Lei returned in 2013 to modify the memorial.