

New D.C. Memorial To Honor Dr. King

A new memorial is being built in Washington, D.C. The memorial will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The new memorial is being constructed in an area called the National Mall. It will be the first memorial there to honor an African American. The monument is being built between memorials for Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. It is being constructed near the place where King gave his famous "I have a dream..." speech in 1963.

Construction on the new memorial began in November. At the groundbreaking for the memorial, President Bush said that he was proud to begin work on a memorial to "the lasting memory of a great man." The memorial is due to be completed in 2008, which will be 40 years after Dr. King died.

NEWS WORD BOX

construction designed
groundbreaking despair
monument national

The memorial is designed to help visitors remember how much Dr. King's words inspired people. Dr. King believed all people should be treated fairly, no matter what their race. When people enter the memorial, they will pass between two stones that stand as symbols of "the mountain of despair" to reach a third stone called "the stone of hope." Dr. King said that sometimes you must pass through despair, or sadness, before you find hope.

Dr. King was killed on April 4, 1968. Americans remember him on the national holiday honoring the date of his birth, January 15. They also remember how hard he worked to make sure everyone in the country was treated fairly.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL

- The memorial will cost \$100 million to build; so far \$65 million has been raised.
- Water will flow in many places inside the memorial.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

In the memorial to Dr. King, stones will stand as symbols of his life. If you had to choose something to be a symbol of your life, what might that thing be?