

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial opens to the public on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Etched in Stone at the Nation's Capital

Revered leader honored for storied work for equality

Almost 50 years after his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the country paid tribute to the civil rights leader in the summer of 2013 with the opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

A must-see on any trip to the nation's capital, the memorial is situated on a four-acre site along the Tidal Basin, adjacent to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial and sharing a direct line of sight to both the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials.

The centerpiece is a 30-foot statue of Dr. King. His likeness is carved into the Stone of Hope, which emerges powerfully from two large boulders. The two boulders, which started as one, represent the Mountain of Despair. The boulders are split in half to give way to the Stone of Hope, which appears to have been thrust forward toward the horizon in a great monolithic struggle.

The Stone of Hope and the Mountain of Despair together represent the soul-stirring words from Dr. King's history-making "I Have a Dream" speech.

Every visitor enters through the Mountain of Despair and tours the memorial as if moving through the struggle that Dr. King faced during his life. Visitors end in the open freedom of the plaza, the solitary image of the civil rights leader gazing over the Tidal Basin toward the horizon, forever encouraging all citizens to strive for justice and equality.

The official address of the monument, 1964 Independence Avenue, S.W., commemorates the year the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became law.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is open daily, with park rangers on site from 8 a.m. to midnight.

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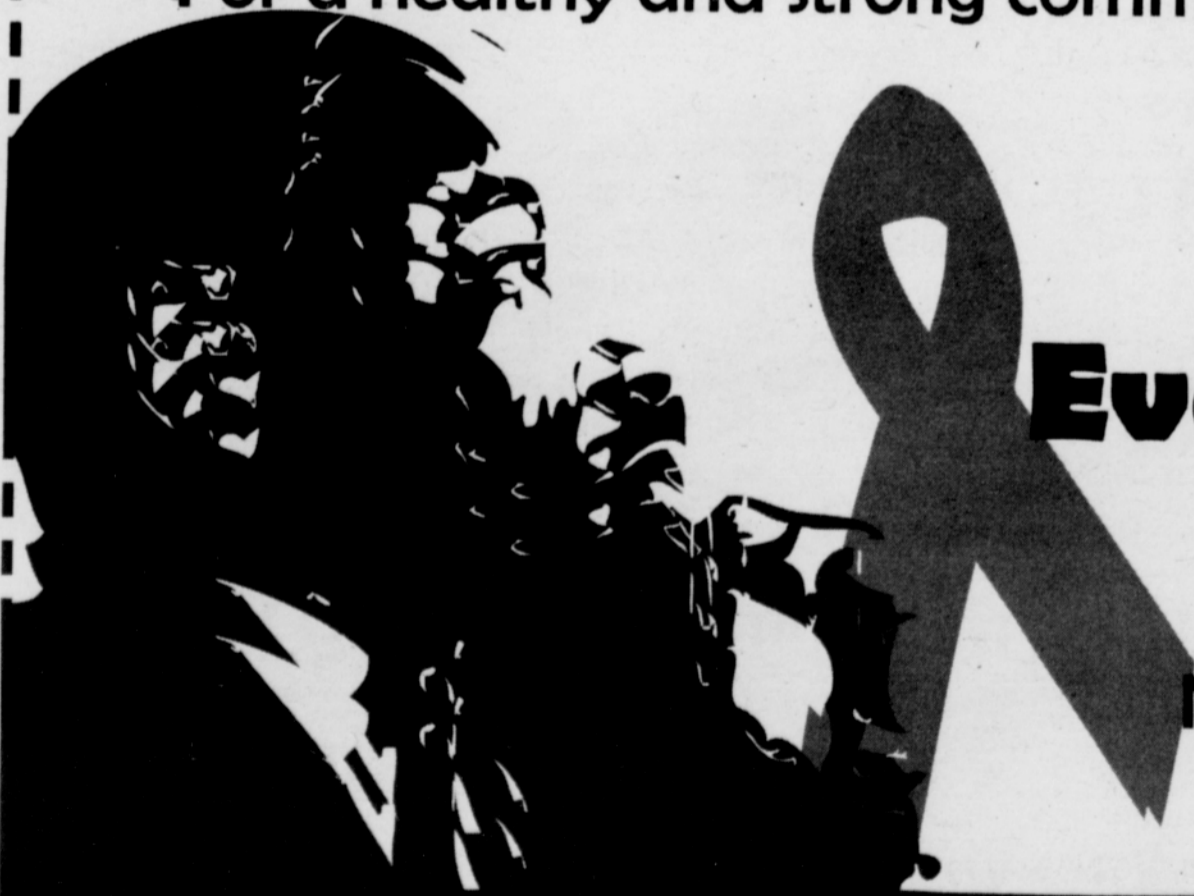
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