



## PRESS RELEASE

June 16, 2004  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Rica Orszag  
202-414-0774

### **"Dream Team" Signs on to Help Build Memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Washington, DC – A "Dream Team" of celebrities, musicians, athletes, authors, and artists including: Dr. Maya Angelou, Angela Bassett, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, George Foreman, Morgan Freeman, Whoopi Goldberg, Samuel L. Jackson, Laurence Fishburne, Peter Max, Joseph C. Phillips, Carlos Santana, Martin Sheen, Tavis Smiley, and Jerry Stackhouse has signed on to support the campaign to build a Memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C.

The campaign, created by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity through the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, asks all Americans to help "build the dream." The "Dream Team" will participate in fundraising and awareness building activities, public service announcements, and special events," according to Foundation President Harry Johnson. "The enthusiastic support of our efforts from such a diverse and powerful group of individuals highlights the tremendous impact Dr. King had on our lives and our social fabric," continued Johnson.

"There are few individuals who, in their lifetime and beyond, have influenced more people than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Morgan Freeman. "Black or white, rich or poor, Dr. King helped us all believe that we could live in a world that truly judged people on character rather than color. Building this Memorial will help remind us as a nation of the importance of that goal. I am proud to support this effort and urge all Americans who share this dream to join in the effort."

"Dr. King believed that all Americans regardless of race are entitled to take part in the American dream," said Carlos Santana. "I am proud to be part of the team that will carry on this legacy and I encourage every American who benefited from Dr. King's work to help play a role in building the dream."

The "Dream Team" joins a growing list of prominent supporters including a Presidents' Council of all living former U.S. Presidents, Nancy Reagan, and Lady Bird Johnson. A Congressional Committee has been established including Senate Majority Leader William Frist, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, Speaker Dennis Hastert, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and 250 other Members of Congress. Additionally, an Executive Leadership Cabinet (ELC) has been formed and is chaired by Gary Cowger, President General Motors North America; former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young; and Coretta Scott King. ELC Members include: Willie Gary, Bill Gray, Tommy Hilfiger, Vernon Jordan, J.W. Marriott, Jr., Richard Parsons, Franklin D. Raines, Daniel Snyder, Dr. Robert L. Wright, and Jack Valenti.

The Memorial Foundation has raised \$30 million of the \$100 million needed to build and maintain the Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC, alongside monuments to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The Memorial is scheduled to break ground on the National Mall in Washington, DC late 2005, with the goal of dedicating the Memorial in 2007. All donations to the Memorial are tax deductible, as the foundation is a 501[c](3) organization. To help build the dream, please visit [www.buildthedream.org](http://www.buildthedream.org) or call 888-484-3373.

**Media Notes:** To arrange an interview or to receive additional information, please contact Rica Orszag at 202-414-0774 or [rorszag@susandavis.com](mailto:rorszag@susandavis.com).

###