



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOMENTUM BUILDS AS U.S. SENATE VOTES TO PROVIDE \$10 MILLION TOWARDS BUILDING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL ON NATIONAL MALL

(WASHINGTON, DC) — The Senate today voted to provide \$10 million in federal funding for Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial that will be built on the National Mall. The appropriations amendment was co-sponsored by Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV), Ranking Member on the Senate Appropriations Committee and Thad Cochran (R-MS), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senators Byrd and Cochran offered the bipartisan amendment to the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior and Related Appropriations bill, which includes funding for the operations of the National Park Service.

"I would like to thank Senators Byrd and Cochran, as well as the many other amendment co-sponsors, for their support of the Washington D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial," said Harry E. Johnson, Sr., President of the MLK National Memorial Foundation. "This exciting news reconfirms Dr. King's place in history as an American hero to all citizens regardless of political affiliation, income, education, race, gender and/or lifestyle. I now challenge everyone who has benefited from Dr. King's American dream of peace, equality, and justice to help build this memorial by logging on to www.buildthedream.org or by calling **888 4 THE DREAM.**"

The \$10 million appropriation will supplement the approximately \$40 million that the MLK Memorial Foundation has raised from private funds. The total cost to build and maintain the memorial is \$100 million. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the Fall of 2006.

Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.
A memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial will be situated adjacent to the F.D.R. Memorial and in a direct line between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Congress passed Joint Resolutions in 1996 authorizing Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to establish a memorial honoring Dr. King to be built in Washington, DC.

Media Notes: To schedule an interview with Harry E. Johnson, Sr., please contact Rica Orszag at 202-253-8974. To help "Build the Dream," visit www.buildthedream.org or call **888 4 THE DREAM.**

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