

DREAMS FULFILLED

photos by **RICHARD DUCREE**

The Official August 28th Commemoration for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial dedication in the nation's capitol was slated to occur on the 48th anniversary of King's iconic *I Have A Dream* speech, and was to include the placing of a wreath by President Obama. But when a magnitude 5.8 earthquake struck in nearby Virginia earlier that week, and with Hurricane Irene bearing down, organizers rescheduled the tribute for October.

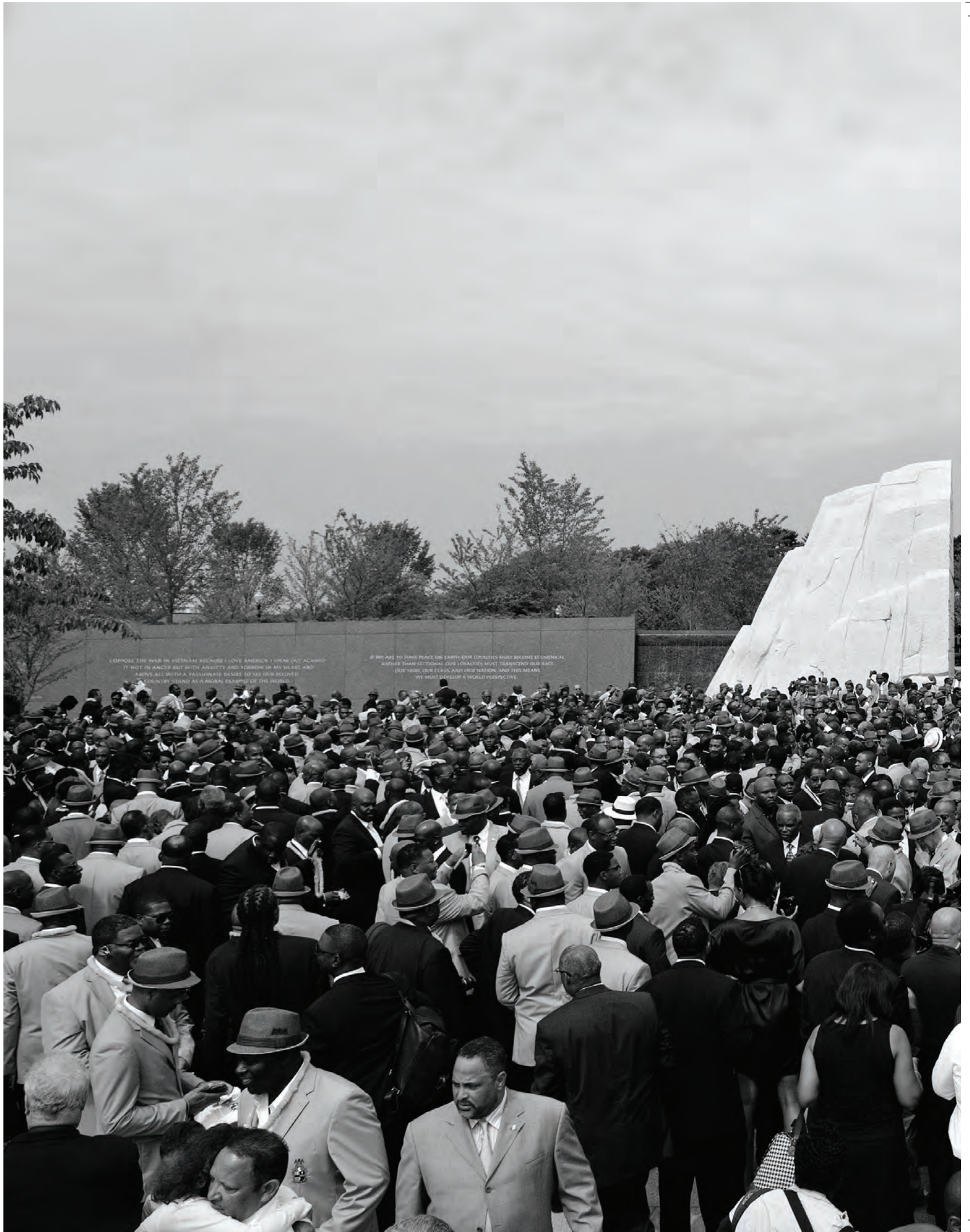
Undeterred, those who had waited more than two decades (an MLK monument was first approved by President Clinton) to honor King's legacy commemorated the historic day just the same. And with storm clouds darkening the horizon, Alpha Phi Alpha (one of the oldest black fraternities, founded in 1906 at Cornell University) paid tribute to Dr. King, an Alpha Phi Alpha brother, along with civil rights legends. U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Alpha Phi Alpha National President Herman "Skip" Mason Jr. told those gathered that day: "We are standing on sacred ground. We are in a space where many of our ancestors

stood, not knowing that a generation later we would return to celebrate the unveiling of a memorial dedicated to a man who was a drum major for peace and justice."

We asked Local 600 unit stills photographer Richard DuCree, who was covering the event on assignment, to personalize the day in images. "Wandering though the two massive granite stones, called 'the mountain of despair', to the 30-foot tall sculpture, called the 'mountain of Hope,' took my breath away," DuCree recounts. "To witness the likeness of a man my mother talked about during her years in the Civil Rights Movement was humbling. To see the tears of those who had actually walked with Dr. King was inspiring and powerful. I wanted my photographs from that day to capture the emotions of the young and old of all nationalities, much like two great civil rights photographers - Gordon Parks, and Moneta Sleet, Jr. - had done years before."

A full slideshow of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial tribute can be seen at www.richardducree.com











(L to R) Issac Farris, Dr. Angela Farris, Bernice King, Rev. Jesse Jackson (behind), Dr. Christine King-Farris, Ambassador Andrew Young, Skip Mason, Martin King III



Rev. C. T. Vivian and Rev. Joseph Lowery





India Arie, Grammy award winner

