

The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
Commission welcomes you to the

Unveiling and
Dedication
Ceremony
of the

EMANCIPATION & FREEDOM MONUMENT



September 22, 2021
10:00 a.m.



Brown's Island, Richmond

ABOUT THE MONUMENT

THE VIRGINIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION began the project to build the Emancipation and Freedom Monument as part of a multi-year commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and the abolition of slavery in the United States. To support the project, the General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 from the general fund in the 2012 Appropriation Act toward planning and constructing the Emancipation and Freedom Monument.

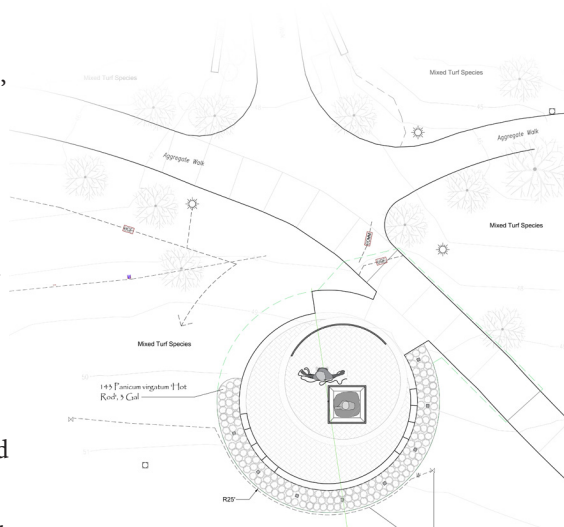
The Commission selected Brown's Island as the site for the monument and initiated the process of transferring the property, situated at the end of the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge, from the City of Richmond to the Commonwealth. In 2013, the Commission issued a request for proposals for a monument to commemorate emancipation from slavery. After considering several proposals, in 2014, the Commission notified sculptor Thomas Jay Warren of Oregon of his selection as the artist for his proposal featuring bronze 12-foot male and female figures representing a man and woman holding an infant, newly freed from slavery, and highlighting notable African American Virginians on the pedestal. In 2016 and 2017, the Commission solicited statewide public comment to determine the individuals to be featured on the monument.

In 2019, the Commission approved Mr. Warren's life-size clay models for the monument, which were then 3D scanned, enlarged, and 3D printed as casting patterns for the 12-foot figures. The figures were cast in bronze and assembled at Artworks Foundry in Berkeley, California, in 2020. On Brown's Island, the site was planned and prepared by Four Winds Design and Williams Construction Company, and in 2021, the Monument was transported to Virginia for installation at the site.

The project could not have been completed without the work of Department of General Services, the Senate Clerk's Office, the Virginia Capitol Foundation, the Office of the Attorney General, the Division of Capitol Police, the Division of Legislative Services, Venture Richmond, and Richmond City Council.

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to all the donors who enabled the completion of the monument. They are acknowledged at the end of this program.

The ceremony is recorded and livestreamed by Virginia Public Media.



Site design by Four Winds Design, LC

ORDER OF CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan , Chair, Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
LIBATION CEREMONY	Èlẹgba Folklore Society
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Rev. Donte' McCutchen and the Levitical Priests
INVOCATION	Rev. Tyrone Nelson , Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church
GREETING	The Honorable Levar Stoney , Mayor of Richmond
REMARKS	The Honorable Delores L. McQuinn , Vice Chair, Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
REMARKS	The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan , Chair Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
REMARKS	The Honorable Ralph S. Northam , Governor of Virginia
KEYNOTE	Dr. Laurant Lee , Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
UNVEILING	Dignitaries and Families of Virginians on the Monument
MUSICAL SELECTIONS:	
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING	Rev. Donte' McCutchen and the Levitical Priests
GLORY	Dr. Janet Copeland

*Please join the Commission following the ceremony for a
light reception on Brown's Island hosted by Westrock.*

VIRGINIANS ON THE MONUMENT

In 2016, the Commission called for nominations from the public for African American Virginians to appear on the monument. More than 100 nominations were received from members of the public, schools, museums, and historical organizations. A work group consisting of legislative members, educators, historians, and community leaders and led by the Commission's chair, Senator Jennifer L. McClellan, narrowed the list of nominees to 30 finalists. After a series of public hearings, the work group recommended ten individuals for inclusion on the Monument, and the Commission voted to include those listed below.

VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT AGAINST SLAVERY



GABRIEL (ca. 1770s-1800)

Enslaved, literate blacksmith who in 1800 orchestrated one of the most important attempted revolts in the history of North American slavery. The plot, inspired by international revolutionary movements, was betrayed and suppressed before it could be set in motion. The execution of Gabriel and many of his followers starkly laid bare the contradictions of American freedom and American slavery.



NAT TURNER (1800-1831)

Leader of the most famous slave revolt in American history, he shattered the myth of the contented slave. The bloody Southampton revolt of 1831 and the widespread repression and violence against African Americans that followed revealed dark truths about slavery and haunted America until the Civil War.



DRED SCOTT (ca. 1799-1858)

Enslaved man from Southampton County whose lawsuit for his freedom led to the 1857 Supreme Court decision *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, declaring that persons of African descent had no rights under the U.S. Constitution, helping to trigger the Civil War and Emancipation.



WILLIAM HARVEY CARNEY (1840-1908)

Escaped slave from Norfolk who fought with the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment of the United States Colored Troops. For his heroism at Fort Wagner in 1863, he was the first person of African descent to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor. Carney and his fellow soldiers fought for the emancipation of many of their brothers and sisters.



MARY JANE RICHARDS BOWSER (fl. 1846-1867)

Born into slavery, she gained an education and went as a missionary to Liberia. She returned to Richmond and served as a key member of a pro-Union spy ring during the Civil War, gathering intelligence helpful to the United States from the household of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. After Emancipation, she dedicated herself to educating the formerly enslaved, lecturing and teaching in freedmen's schools in Virginia, Florida, and Georgia.

Twenty other individuals were considered as finalists for inclusion on the monument:

Dr. Virgie M. Binford • James Wesley Douglas Bland • John Andrew Bowler • Lucy Goode Brooks • Henry “Box” Brown • Anthony Burns • Evelyn Thomas Butts • Peter Jacob Carter • John Dabney • Jennie Serepta Dean • James Farmer • Rev. Dr. Curtis West Harris • Andrew I. Heidelberg • Dorothy Irene Height • Rev. John Jasper • Charles Spurgeon Johnson • James Lafayette • Mildred Loving • Gregory Hayes Swanson • Dr. James Edward Maceo West

VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY

REVEREND WYATT TEE WALKER (1929-2018)

An architect of the strategies of peaceful protest that ended segregation. He was a Petersburg minister, a civil rights activist, chief of staff to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



JOHN MERCER LANGSTON (1829-1897)

Born to a free woman of color and a white planter in Louisa County, he gained an education and became an active abolitionist in Ohio before the Civil War. Returning to Virginia during Reconstruction, he was Virginia's first African American member of Congress in 1888, the first dean of the law school at Howard University, and the first president of what is now Virginia State University.



LUCY SIMMS (1855-1934)

Born a slave, she began teaching African American students at age 17. A graduate of Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) she taught three generations of African American students in the Harrisonburg area over a 56-year career. During segregation she organized the Rockingham County Association for Teachers and advocated for universal education.



JOHN MITCHELL, JR. (1863-1929)

Born into slavery and educated in the freedmen's schools during Reconstruction, he became the editor of the *Richmond Planet* newspaper. He exposed and campaigned against lynchings, segregation, and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. A fearless activist and community builder, he was a leader of the 1904 Richmond Streetcar Boycott, founded a bank, and in 1921 was the first African American to run for Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.



ROSA DIXON BOWSER (1855-1931)

Educator, Women's rights activist, and social reformer who founded the first African American teachers association of Virginia and co-founded the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. She played a major role in African American reform organizations, groups supporting universal women's suffrage, and associations publicly opposed to lynchings and racial segregation.



STATEMENT FROM SENATOR HENRY L. MARSH III

I am pleased to commend and congratulate the Commission for selecting such a beautiful and impactful commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation and Abolition of Slavery.

The selection of Thomas Jay Warren as the artist was excellent and the artwork he has created fulfills the hope of the Commission that these statues would exemplify the strength of those that fought against slavery and for equality.

The final product will help future generations to understand the struggles and hopes of these inspiring Virginians.



Senator Henry L. Marsh III

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



DR. LAURANETT LEE is a public historian specializing in teaching, advocating, and collaborating with diverse community and academic audiences. She was the founding curator of African-American history at the Virginia Historical Society (2001–2016). In 2011, she worked with a team of colleagues at VHS to launch a genealogical tool called *Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names*. In 2008, she published *Making the American Dream Work: A Cultural History of African Americans in Hopewell, Virginia*, and oral history project commissioned by the Hopewell City Council.

Dr. Lee sits on several boards and is engaged in various community service initiatives. In 2017, Mayor Levar Stoney appointed her to the Monument Avenue Commission. Dr. Lee has been engaged in the work of the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission for many years and in 2020 was appointed as a member of the Commission.



SENATOR JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN has served as chair of the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission since 2014 and served previously as vice-chair. She has been a member of the Commission since 2006. Senator McClellan represents the Ninth District in the Senate of Virginia.



DELEGATE DELORES L. MCQUINN has been a member of the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission since 2014 and was elected as vice-chair in 2021. Delegate McQuinn represents the Seventieth District in the House of Delegates.

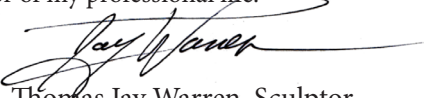
STATEMENT FROM THE ARTIST

I have spent my 36-year career creating public bronze monuments. I feel this monument is my swan song. I pray the public will see to the heart of the piece, feel the intent to present a work with which every African American can identify, and find a place that every person can visit in peace, for reflection, and to teach their children. I hope you can look on these figures and feel their nobility, their pain, their hope. Look into the faces of those ten Virginians: feel pride, be inspired to keep moving forward for equality, peaceful and undeterred.

My thanks to the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission for entrusting me with the creation of this monument.

My special thanks to Drew Harrigan of Four Winds Design, Fred Williams of Williams Construction Company, Senator McClellan, Amigo Wade, and Lily Jones.

Being given this opportunity is the greatest honor of my professional life.



Thomas Jay Warren, Sculptor

LIFE-SIZE CLAY MODELS BY THOMAS JAY WARREN

Approved by the Commission in 2019, the figures were enlarged and cast in bronze to create the 12-foot monument figures.



STATEMENT FROM SENATOR MARK WARNER

MARK R. WARNER
VIRGINIA



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 22, 2021

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to the members of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission and to distinguished guests and members of the community as you gather today to celebrate the Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony for the Emancipation & Freedom Monument.

Since its formation in 1992, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission has honored the memory of Dr. King through the many educational, commemorative, and community activities it has hosted across the Commonwealth. Dr. King fought for economic and social justice while preaching non-violence, service to the community, and love for all. I appreciate the commission's efforts to ensure that Dr. King's legacy remains in the forefront so that future generations will learn from his teachings.

The Emancipation & Freedom Monument is the culmination of many years of work by the Commission and its partners. This effort sprang from the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation in 2012 and much work has been done in the years since to bring us to this special day. This monument represents the significant contributions of Black Virginians who fought for the freedom of those who were enslaved or formerly enslaved. The commission, and those who supported and contributed to the completion of this monument, should be commended for creating a place where Virginians can reflect upon our history and remember those who made a difference.

On this important occasion, I am very pleased to join with your family, friends and community in wishing you the very best for a fulfilling and successful celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

MARK R. WARNER



MEMBER OF CONGRESS

BOBBY SCOTT
THIRD DISTRICT
VIRGINIA

September 16, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer McClellan
Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
c/o Virginia General Assembly
Division of Legislative Services
Pocahontas Building, 11th Floor
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator McClellan, Vice Chair Locke, Members of the Commission and Guests:

It is a pleasure to offer greetings as you gather for the Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony for the Emancipation and Freedom Monument.

Our Commonwealth is fortunate because of the many individuals who have made significant contributions with the emancipation of enslaved Africans and the advancement of Civil Rights. The deserving men and women you have selected for inclusion in the Emancipation and Freedom Monument will forever be enshrined, so future generations will have an opportunity to learn about our Commonwealth's difficult and complicated history.

Today's ceremony presents a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the past and celebrate the Virginians who valiantly risked harm to themselves and their families in the pursuit of freedom and equality. The Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation are undoubtedly better places to live because of the courageous efforts that were made by today's honorees.

Best wishes for a joyous ceremony and many more years of service to our Commonwealth.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Scott". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

DONORS

The Commission is grateful to the donors whose support made possible the completion of the Emancipation and Freedom Monument.

\$200,000+

Commonwealth of Virginia
Open Society Foundations

\$25,000–\$50,000

Dominion Energy
Richard S. Reynolds Foundation
James and Barbara Ukrop
Westrock Foundation

\$10,000–\$15,000

The Frederick Fund
Senator Jennifer L. McClellan and
David Mills
Verizon
Virginia State Legislative Black Caucus

\$1,000–\$5,000

Altria
Dr. Edward L. Ayers
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Betsy Barton*
The Honorable Viola Baskerville
Dr. Ronald A. and Dr. Betty Neal
Crutcher
Democratic Party of Virginia
Senator Mamie E. Locke
Senator Louise L. Lucas
Senator Scott A. Surovell
Theresa Walker
Woodfin Oil



Virginia Capitol Foundation, a
501(c)(3) organization, served as the
fiscal agent for the Emancipation and
Freedom Monument.

\$25–\$999

Trent Bauserman
Deborah Benson
Lynne Bland
Isabella Brafman
Kim Bridges
Kathleen Burcher
Delegate Betsy Carr
LaJuana Chambers
Senator R. Creigh Deeds
The Honorable Peter Farrell
Claudette Fentress-Holmes
Fifth Baptist Church
Margie Gausby
Zeb Gray
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Housing Opportunities Made Equal of
Virginia, Inc.
Laura Inscoe
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Julie Morrill
NAACP, Dinwiddie Branch
NAACP, Franklin County
NAACP, Halifax County South Boston
NAACP, Hanover County Branch
NAACP, Powhatan County
NAACP, Waynesboro Chapter
Old Dominion Bar Association
James Payne
Paula Pickering
John Quinn
Catherine Reed
The Honorable Nancy Rodrigues
Bruce Sams
Mary Jo Sheeley
Susan Swecker
Reginald Thompson
Karen VanLandingham

**Deceased*

*Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this list.
If, however, there should be an omission or error, we
express our sincere regret and ask that you bring it to
our attention by calling 804.786.1012.*



The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, a statutory and bipartisan agency of the Virginia General Assembly, was created in 1992 to honor the memory and legacy of Dr. King and to continue his work through educational, historical, and cultural programs, public policy analysis, and public discourse on contemporary issues.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Senator Jennifer L. McClellan, Chair
Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, Vice Chair
Rabbi Bruce Aft
Rev. Ricardo L. Brown
Dr. Ronald L. Carey
Delegate Betsy B. Carr

Delegate Joshua G. Cole
Senator Adam P. Ebbin
Delegate C. Matt Fariss
Dr. Matthew S. Gibson
Senator Mamie E. Locke
Dr. Laurantt L. Lee

Edward McCoy
Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D.
Senator William M. Stanley, Jr.
Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler
Paula Williams
Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

In addition to the current members of the Commission, many former Commission members, subcommittee members, and work group members met over the course of the project to guide the Commission's work on the monument, including:

Dr. Edward L. Ayers
Dr. Autumn Barrett
Betsy S. Barton*
The Honorable Viola O. Baskerville
Lynne M. Bland
Valerie Braxton-Williams

The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham
Senator Rosalyn R. Dance
Brenda Edwards
Patrick Farris
Allison L. Jones
Dr. Gregg Kimball

Rev. Tyler Millner
LTC Wesley Motley, Jr., Ret.
Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
Dr. Robert C. Vaughan III*
Charles Withers
Juanita Owens Wyatt*

**Deceased*

Brenda Edwards served as staff to the Commission from 1992 until 2017 and was integral in the monument's creation. The project was initiated under the chairmanship of Senator Henry L. Marsh III, who served as chair of the Commission from 2002 until 2014.

OTHER PROJECTS OF THE COMMISSION

HISTORY OF LYNCHING IN VIRGINIA

The History of Lynching in Virginia Work Group was formed to shed light on the long and painful history of lynching in the Commonwealth. Its efforts include compiling and documenting the names and stories of victims of lynching in Virginia, creating programmatic outreach to bring awareness of this history to Virginia communities, and assisting communities in their efforts to memorialize victims of lynching.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATOR PROJECT

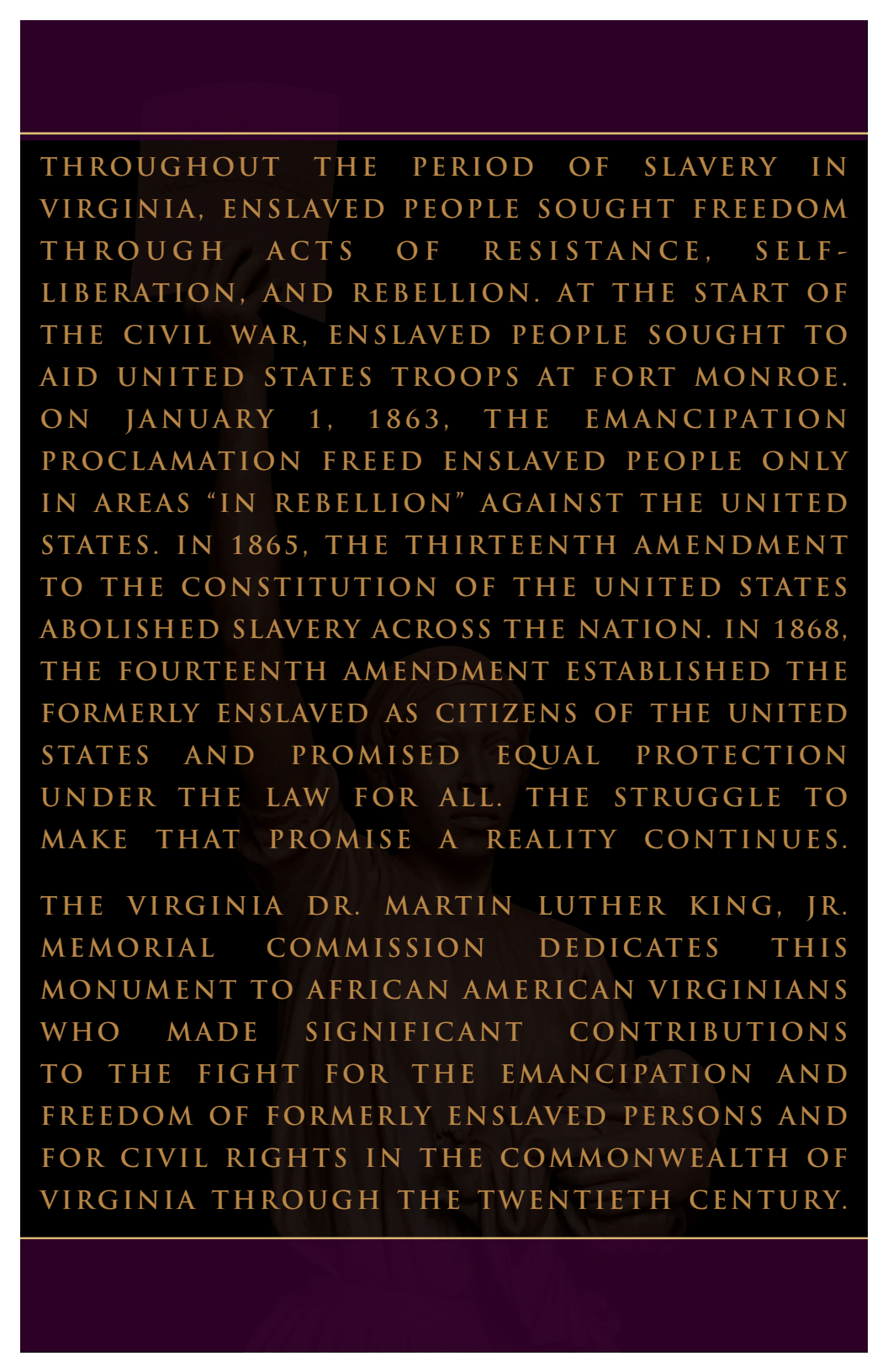
Nearly 100 formerly enslaved African men served in the General Assembly of Virginia between 1869 and 1890 until subsequent state constitutions, the "Black Codes," and Jim Crow laws stripped away the franchise for African Americans. The Commission's website is home to a comprehensive database of these legislators, detailing their lives and contributions to Virginia's history.

KING IN VIRGINIA

Fifty years after the death of Dr. King, the Commission held a series of roundtables in each of the Virginia communities Dr. King visited during his lifetime, reflecting on Dr. King's vision of a Beloved Community in Virginia today and asking, "Where do we go from here?" Videos of each of the conversations and materials related to Dr. King's visits to the Commonwealth are archived on the Commission's website.

For more on the Commission, visit:

MLKCOMMISSION.DLS.VIRGINIA.GOV

The background of the text is a dark, sepia-toned image of a statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The statue is shown from the waist up, facing slightly to the right. It is set against a dark, textured background that appears to be part of a monument or a wall. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the statue's face and clothing.

THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT FREEDOM THROUGH ACTS OF RESISTANCE, SELF-LIBERATION, AND REBELLION. AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT TO AID UNITED STATES TROOPS AT FORT MONROE. ON JANUARY 1, 1863, THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION FREED ENSLAVED PEOPLE ONLY IN AREAS “IN REBELLION” AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. IN 1865, THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ABOLISHED SLAVERY ACROSS THE NATION. IN 1868, THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT ESTABLISHED THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROMISED EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW FOR ALL. THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE THAT PROMISE A REALITY CONTINUES.

THE VIRGINIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION DEDICATES THIS MONUMENT TO AFRICAN AMERICAN VIRGINIANS WHO MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT FOR THE EMANCIPATION AND FREEDOM OF FORMERLY ENSLAVED PERSONS AND FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THROUGH THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.