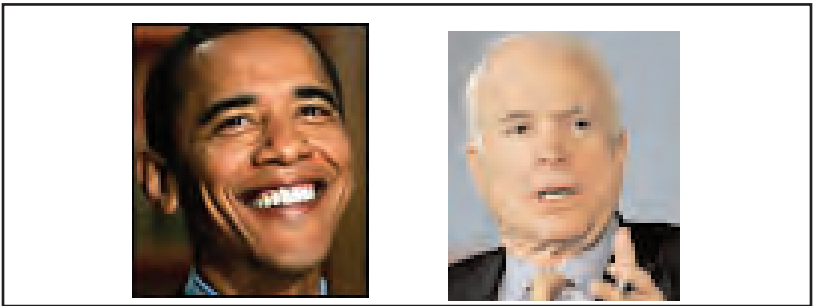




The Democratic & Republican Candidates



Barack Obama

John McCain

76 Days to making White House History



Dear Prudence

The Houston Sun

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Site preparation begins for MLK memorial



(From left to right) Richard Marshall of the Memorial Foundation; Harry E. Johnson of the Memorial Foundation; B. Keith Fulton of Verizon; Howard Woolley of Verizon; and William R. Roberts of Verizon Photo by: Gediyaon Kifle

(AANEWSWIRE) – In celebration of the 45th anniversary of the March on Washington, Harry E. Johnson, Sr. President and CEO of the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc., announced Monday that Verizon has begun Phase I Site Preparation of the Memorial. Verizon

will relocate several of its communication lines that run directly through the center of what will become the memorial core. Additionally, joining a community of foundations, including The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts who are working to support the memorial and honor the legacy of Dr. King, the Bill

& Melinda Gates Foundation and The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation have contributed \$3 million and \$1 million respectively.

"Today, we are proud to announce that Phase I Site Preparation has commenced on the first major memorial to honor a man of peace and person of color on the National Mall, twenty five years since a group of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity members originated the idea of building a national memorial honoring Dr. King," said Johnson. "I am also honored to recognize that today's contributions have lifted our fundraising total to \$98.8 million."

Verizon's site prep work is part of \$1 million in-kind contribution from Verizon to provide preparatory and infrastructure work needed at the planned national memorial's site. In addition to the in-kind donation, the Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, previously announced a \$1 million contribution to fund the preparation and installation of a permanent, educational component, also available online that will bring to life King's vision and contribution to the civil rights struggle.

Memorial Foundation executives who

participated in the Monday photo opportunity on the National Mall included: Harry E. Johnson, Sr., President of the Memorial Foundation; Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr., Executive Architect, and Richard Marshall, Chief Financial Officer. They were joined by several Verizon executives including: William R. Roberts, President, Verizon Maryland and Washington, D.C.; B. Keith Fulton, President, Verizon West Virginia; Howard Woolley, Senior Vice President, Verizon; Eric Reed, Vice President, Government Relations, Public Policy; Debra Speed, Director, Public Policy & Strategic Alliances; Helen Hall, Director Government Relations; John M. Salazar, Director, Operations; Karen Campbell, Executive Director, Verizon Washington D.C. and Aaron Dom, Manager, Construction.

Johnson also announced today that the fundraising campaign goal has increased from \$100 million to \$120 million due to a number of variables which have impacted the project since 2000. To make a donation, please visit www.buildthedream.org.

Some of the factors behind the increased cost are the need for enhanced security as a result of new Homeland Security initiatives following September

11; on-going structural changes and preconstruction enhancements; and the addition of a bookstore, comfort station, and ranger kiosk. Additionally, there have been shifts in cost escalations and contingencies such as inflation, the rising cost of fuel, steel, granite and other key building materials.

Major donors to date include: General Motors, Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation, NBA/WNBA, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Walt Disney Company Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, The Ford Motor Fund, Toyota, AARP, AFLAC, BP America, Inc., CIGNA, Credit Unions of the United States, DuPont, ExxonMobil Foundation, Fannie Mae Corporation, FedEx Corporation, GE, Ann and Joel Horowitz Family Foundation, Sheila C. Johnson-Newman, Lehman Brothers, George Lucas, MacFarlane Partners, The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, McDonald's Corporation, MetLife Foundation, National Association of Realtors (NAR), National Education Association (NEA), Nationwide Foundation, PepsiCo Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Pfizer Foundation, Prudential Fi-

nancial, Inc., Shell Oil Company, State Farm Insurance, Verizon Foundation, Viacom, Wal-Mart, Morehouse College, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Knight Foundation among others.

About the 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, situated adjacent to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt 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, D.C.

The ceremonial groundbreaking took place on November 13, 2006 and the Memorial will be completed in 2010. McKissack & McKissack / Turner Construction Company/ Gilford Corporation / Tompkins Builders, Inc. Joint Venture will serve as the Design-Build Team. McKissack & McKissack is the oldest minority-owned architectural firm in the United States. For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.buildthedream.org.



DETROIT, MI—Houston area youth were well represented as participants in the July 23-August 2 AAU Junior Olympics in Detroit. Among them was the Northside Striders Youth Track Club from Aldine. On the Awards Podium in her Navy Blue and Gold is Keishawna Scott (center). Scott received the Sub Bantam Silver medal

Photo/Tony T. Jones

both 400m and 800m. She is coached by Tony T. Jones, who has worked with the children for 15 years. (Read more about the AAU Junior Olympics in the Sports Section.)

Pelosi, Michelle Obama to kick off Dem Convention in Denver

By STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER - Michelle Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will be the featured first-night speakers at the Democratic National Convention, which also will include a videotaped message from Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Michelle Obama will be introduced by her brother, Craig Robinson, a former basketball star at Princeton and now coach at Oregon State, on the first night on Aug. 25. Barack Obama's half sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, also will have a role at the convention.

Other opening night speakers include Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, an early Obama supporter, organizers said Tuesday.

Pelosi will be recognized for helping lead the Democratic Party back to power in Congress, said organizer Jenny Backus. "She was in the vanguard of the movement. She recruited a generation of young leaders," Backus said.

Opening night will also feature a tribute to Kennedy, who has taped a five-minute video to air during the party

gathering. Kennedy suffered a seizure at his Hyannisport, Mass., house on May 17 and was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He underwent surgery and recently completed a six-week course of chemotherapy and radiation.

The opening night theme is "One Nation." The Aug. 26 theme is "Renewing America's Promise" with a speech by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

On Aug. 27, the theme is "Securing America's Future" with an acceptance speech by Obama's still-unannounced vice presidential candidate.

The theme for Aug. 28, the night Obama formally accepts the nomination at the Denver Broncos' football stadium, is "Change You Can Believe In." Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter will be among speakers that night.

Other convention speakers will be announced over the next two weeks.

The Democratic National Convention Committee said it will issue daily convention webcasts under the theme "Countdown to America's Future." The 15-minute segments will air daily at 4:30 p.m. EDT from Aug. 24 through Aug. 28 on DemConvention.com, Comcast's Video On Demand, and via satellite. A final program will



Children at Emancipation Park repeats Back-to-School Excellence and Honor pledge given by Congressman Al Green

Sun Photo/Lonal X. Robinson