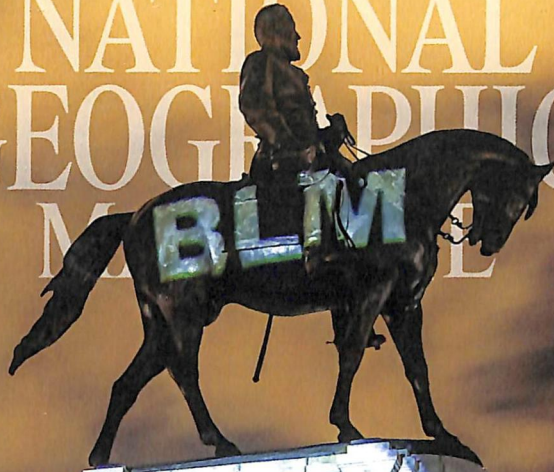


01.2021

SPECIAL ISSUE THE YEAR IN PICTURES

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



2020

Photographs From
an Unforgettable Year

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THE YEAR THAT TESTED US

How much can any of us withstand? Deaths by coronavirus, until morgues are packed. Calls for racial equality, answered with backlash. The Earth scoured by locusts, hurricanes, fires. How much? And then how much more?

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THE YEAR THAT ISOLATED US

A funeral with no mourners. A family visiting through a window. A virtual happy hour. Around the world, billions of people simultaneously experienced aloneness, separated from companions and solace.

08.28

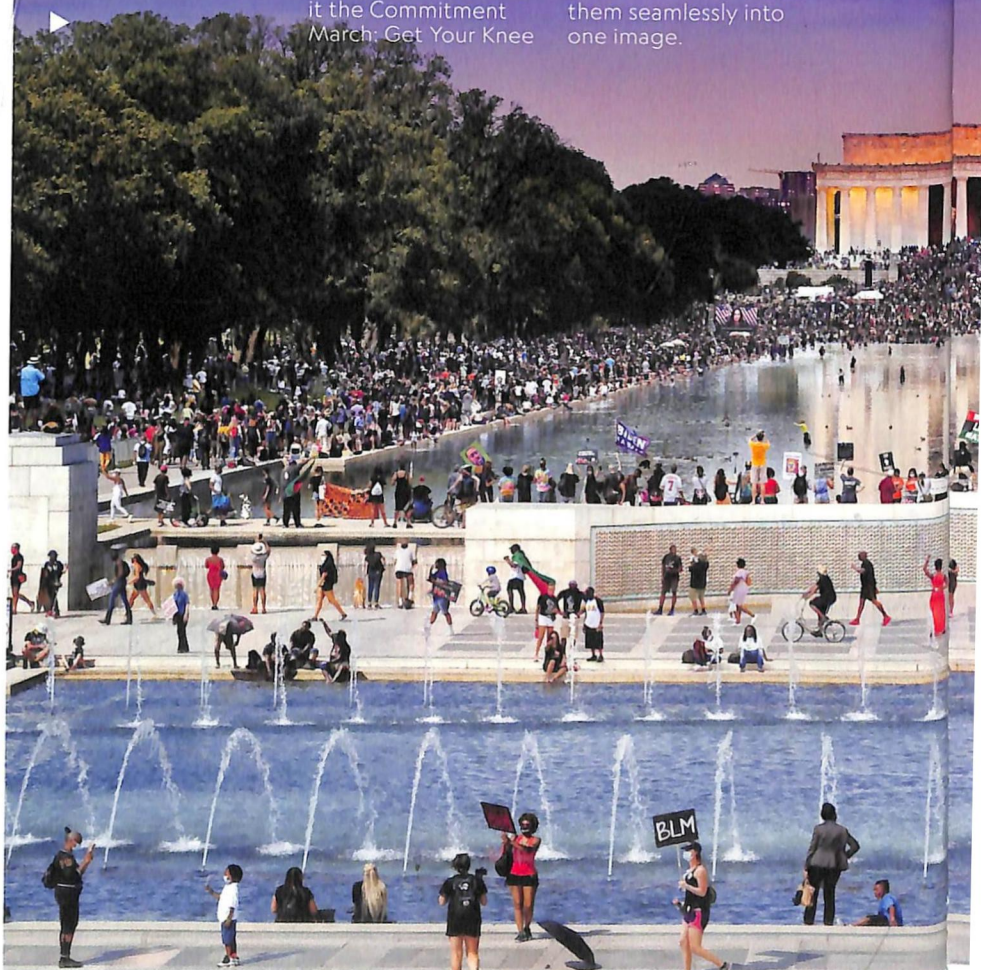
A DAYLONG SHOW OF COMMITMENT

Photograph by
STEPHEN WILKES

Fifty-seven years to the day after Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial, another march for civil rights and social justice drew thousands of people to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Organizers dubbed it the Commitment March: Get Your Knee

Off Our Necks, a reference to George Floyd's May 25 killing. To capture this scene, Stephen Wilkes photographed from a single fixed camera position on an elevated crane, making images at intervals throughout a 16-hour period. He then edited the best moments and blended them seamlessly into one image.





A SPECIAL ISSUE

FIVE OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS REFLECT ON 2020 **P. 7**
ESSAY: IN A YEAR OF STRIKING IMAGES,
WHY WE COULD NOT LOOK AWAY **P. 24**



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THE YEAR THAT EMPOWERED US

The phrase “I can’t breathe” took on multiple meanings, from hospital wards treating gasping COVID-19 patients to street protests where deaths in police hands triggered long-stifled cries for justice.

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THE YEAR THAT HOPE ENDURED

Extraordinary developments occur even during terrible times. Scientists make discoveries, conservationists score victories, social movements spark change. And love, in all its forms, finds a way.