TRUMAN CIVIL RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023
Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave SE

7:00-9:30 pm ET  Opening Event: To Secure These Rights
- U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader
- Judge Richard Gergel, United States District Court for the District of South Carolina and author of Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring
- Dr. Carla Hayden, 14th Librarian of Congress

Due to limited seating, the in-person event is by invitation only and will be live-streamed

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023
George Washington University, Jack Morton Auditorium, 805 21st St NW

8:00am ET — Registration
9:00 am ET — Opening Remarks
9:15am ET (General Session 1) — Black Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces
Moderated by Eugene Robinson, the session will explore the history of African American military service from the American Revolution through WWII.
- Dr. Woody Holton, Professor of History at the University of South Carolina
- Dr. Lorien Foote, Professor of History at Texas A&M University
- Dr. Adriane Lentz-Smith, Associate Professor of History at Duke University
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11:00 am ET (General Session 2) — The Right to Fight: The Implementation and Impact of Executive Order 9981
Moderated by Michele Norris, the second session will explore President Truman’s decision to desegregate the military and its consequences and impact on subsequent conflicts.
- Dr. Sabrina Thomas, Associate Professor of History at Texas Tech University
- Dr. David P. Cline, Professor of History and Founding Director of the San Diego State University Center for Public and Oral History
- Dr. Kyle Longley, Professor of History, Director of the Masters in War and Society Program at Chapman University
- Dr. Robert F. Jefferson, Associate Professor of History at the University of New Mexico

2:00 pm ET (General Session 3) – Veteran Voices: Desegregation’s Impact on the Individual Experience
Moderated by Rawn James, Jr., the afternoon concludes powerfully with personal reflections from those whose lives and careers were directly impacted by Executive Order 9981.
• **Amb. John L. Estrada**, former United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps
• **Adm. Michelle Howard (Ret.),** the first woman to reach the rank of four-stars in the U.S. Navy and the first Black woman to reach three and four stars in the Armed Forces
• **Brig. Gen. Donald Scott (Ret.),** the first graduate of HBCU Lincoln University to earn a star in the U.S. Army

**National Archives, 700 Constitution Avenue, NW, Special Events Entrance**

5:15-6:30 pm ET — Reception
The Rotunda Galleries offer a magnificent setting for this special reception just steps away from the centerpiece of the National Archives Museum — the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom — where the original Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights are permanently displayed.

6:45-7:15 – Pre-program begins; Livestream Begins

7:30 pm ET — Keynote Address by President Joe Biden

**FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023**
**National Museum of African American History and Culture, 1400 Constitution Avenue, NW**

8:00 am ET — Registration
9:00 am ET — Opening Remarks
9:15 am ET — (General Session 4) – The Future of Inclusion: Equal Opportunity in Today’s Military — and Tomorrow’s
Having looked to the past and into the present lives of Black veterans, the Symposium’s final panel, moderated by **Cmdr. Theodore “Ted” R. Johnson (Ret.),** will look ahead to ask where we are going as a nation pledged to human rights and equality, in light of the history of E.O. 9981 and the experiences of African American veterans.

• **Lt. Col. Jason Dempsey (Ret.),** Executive Director, Center for Veteran Transition & Integration at Columbia University
• **Capt. Cynthia Macri (Ret.),** M.D., FACS, FACOG, Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, and Maryland State Veterans Commissioner
• **Kori Schake,** Senior Fellow and Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute
• **Secretary Anthony Woods,** Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

10:15 am ET — Closing Remarks: **General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.,** Chief of Staff of the Air Force