



FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

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PRESS CONTACT

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

President Joe Biden to Attend Truman Civil Rights Symposium Commemorating 75th Anniversary of Desegregation of U.S. Armed Forces

President Biden to Provide Remarks on July 27 at National Archives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (JULY 25, 2023) — President Joe Biden was announced as the keynote speaker for the [Truman Civil Rights Symposium](#) in Washington D.C. on July 27th commemorating the 75th anniversary of the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces. President Biden will provide remarks at the National Archives, 700 Constitution Avenue, NW, Special Events Entrance at 7:30pm ET.

Hosted by the [Truman Library Institute](#) from July 26-28, the Truman Civil Rights Symposium is free and open to the public. **Registration for in-person and livestream events is open.**

The three-day symposium also includes remarks from U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn and Judge Richard Gergel, video remarks from former President Barack Obama and closing remarks from General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force who was recently nominated as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Military leaders, elected officials, journalists, and historians will participate in panel discussions examining the legacy of President Truman's watershed decision to desegregate the military; how it paved the way for landmark civil rights legislation and U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the 1950s and 1960s; and how it influences today's civil rights movement.

WHO:

- **President Joe Biden**

WHEN/WHERE:

- **THURSDAY, JULY 27 KEYNOTE ADDRESS** at **7:30pm ET** at **National Archives** (700 Constitution Avenue, NW, Special Events Entrance)

WHAT:

- **THURSDAY, JULY 27 (NATIONAL ARCHIVES)** — President Joe Biden will deliver remarks about President Truman’s Executive Order desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces as part of Truman Civil Rights Symposium.

PRESS LOGISTICS:

- **PRESS PRE-SET:** 1:00-1:30 pm ET at National Archives.
- **PRESS ARRIVAL:** at **4:45-5:15 pm ET.**
- All press will enter through the Special Events Entrance at 700 Constitution Avenue, NW.
- **Please bring Truman Symposium Credentials** as all media will be asked to check-in with Truman press staff.
- **REGISTER FOR SYMPOSIUM MEDIA CREDENTIALS** [HERE](#)

President Truman and Civil Rights

As a World War I veteran, President Truman was outraged by the violence against Black American veterans returning to the segregated South and the silent reaction of state authorities. In 1946, President Truman created the first-ever President’s Committee on Civil Rights to investigate the status of civil rights in the U.S. and propose measures to strengthen and protect them. The committee issued its landmark report, [To Secure These Rights](#), in 1947, calling for equal voting rights, the creation of a Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department to combat lynching and other assaults on Black lives and freedoms, equal employment and fair-housing laws.

The first president to address a civil rights organization, President Truman gave a speech to the NAACP on June 29, 1947, pledging his support to uphold the civil rights of all Americans: “It is my deep conviction that we have reached a turning point in the long history of our country’s efforts to guarantee freedom and equality to all our citizens,” Truman said. “All Americans enjoy these rights. And when I say ‘all’ Americans — I mean all Americans.”

The Truman Civil Rights Symposium is free and open to the public. To learn more, visit TrumanLibraryInstitute.org/Civil-Rights-Symposium.

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[The Truman Library Institute](#) is the member-supported, nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum. The Truman Library Institute draws on President Truman's legacy to enrich public understanding of history, the presidency, and America's unique form of government. This mission is achieved through the development and funding of world-class museum exhibits, a robust international research grant program, public forums, and nationally acclaimed education programs serving more than 50,000 students and teachers each year.