

COLORADO
HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION

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April 17, 2025

Colorado House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee Members
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representatives:

I am writing in support of House Joint Resolution 25-1029 concerning the federal government's erasure of United States' military history. The removal of public information flagged for association with "diversity, equity, and inclusion" from federal websites and resources that discuss military history blatantly disregards the contributions and sacrifices of Colorado veterans who were proud members of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Japanese American 442nd Infantry Regiment, Buffalo Soldiers, and African American Medal of Honor recipients, among others. Such erasure also stands to discourage Colorado's young women and men from considering military service as they do not see themselves reflected in our country's military history nor its celebrated heroes.


The executive order "Restoring truth and sanity to American history," issued by President Trump on March 27, 2025, goes even further. It is derailing efforts to share, celebrate, and contemplate all aspects of America's history through its National Parks, museums, and libraries.

The executive office's proclaimed efforts to "eliminate waste" go far beyond turning resources away from previously enacted proactive DEI efforts as they instead dedicate time and resources towards removing and rewriting public-facing records of our history. Such egregious acts are counter to our country's principles of liberty, freedom, and justice for all. Striving for truth in American history means acknowledging all people's contributions: the good, the bad, and the lessons learned. How a person feels about various aspects of history is an individual choice and not for the government to control.

The Colorado Historical Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that mobilizes resources to support and inspire Colorado's people in their preservation of meaningful places, heritage, and history. We believe Colorado, and the United States, should be a place where all its people feel reflected in historical records and are thus empowered to build a sound, equitable future informed by the past.

Thank you for your consideration of HJR 25-1029 and taking a stand for Colorado's veterans.

Respectfully,


Catherine Stron
President/CEO

Cc: The Honorable Governor Jared Polis



Robert Marshall <co.rep.marshall@gmail.com>

Colorado Military History Erasure Resolution and Your Work

Matthew F. Delmont <Matthew.F.Delmont@dartmouth.edu>
To: Robert Marshall <co.rep.marshall@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 21, 2025 at 3:18 AM

Dear Representative Marshall,

Thanks for your email and hope you had a happy Easter. Here is my statement in support of the resolution:

To the Colorado State Legislature:

I write to express my strong support for House Joint Resolution 25-1029. I am the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor of History at Dartmouth and have taught American history at the university level for two decades. I am the author of five books including most recently, *Half American: The Heroic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*. Since the book was published in 2022, I have given nearly one hundred presentations on the book to audiences all across the country, including the National World War II Museum, the National Museum of the Pacific War, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well as at schools, libraries, senior centers, and corporations. I also had the privilege of discussing the book with military officers at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA, and the U.S. Navy War College in Newport, RI. These audiences were demographically and politically diverse, and they shared a desire to learn more about our nation's shared history.

Earlier this month, I was disappointed to learn that my book, *Half American*, was one of nearly 400 books removed from the U.S. Naval Academy library, in response to a Department of Defense directive to remove material related to "diversity, equity, and inclusion." The men and women I write about in *Half American*—Tuskegee Airmen, Montford Point Marines, U.S. Navy mess attendants, 761st Tank Battalion, 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, Medal of Honor awardees, and so many others—loved America. They risked, and in some cases gave, their lives fighting fascism abroad and then came home and kept fighting for civil rights, freedom, and democracy here in the United States. To ban this history is to ban the history of American veterans, which no one should allow to happen.

One of the veterans I write about in *Half American* is Robert P. Madison. Mr. Madison paused his architectural studies at Howard University to serve as a second lieutenant in the 92nd Infantry Division during the war, where he earned a Purple Heart in combat in Italy. After the war he earned architectural degrees from Case Western and Harvard before returning to his hometown of Cleveland to establish a trailblazing architectural firm. In his 80s, he recalled a trip to a bookstore. "I saw this great big volume on World War II, and I leafed through it. I didn't see one reference to any Black soldiers or any Black airmen at all in the book." I wrote *Half American* for men and women like Robert Madison, so that future generations could learn from their history. I had a chance to meet Mr. Madison just after he turned 100 years old and gave him a copy of the book. Today, he is 102. It breaks my heart to think that everything he fought for, everything his generation gave to America, could be so easily erased.

I believe in America's shared history and for this reason I strongly support House Joint Resolution

25-1029.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matthew F. Delmont
Dartmouth College
Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor of History

From: Robert Marshall <co.rep.marshall@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 2:17 PM
To: Matthew F. Delmont <Matthew.F.Delmont@dartmouth.edu>
Subject: Re: Colorado Military History Erasure Resolution and Your Work

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