

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to formally refute the removal and erasure of our diverse brave men and women who honorably served our country, and their historic accomplishments. The recent actions by your Administration are unjustified and are nothing less than disparaging and offensive to anyone who has worn our country's uniform and protected our freedoms. Therefore, we demand that you reinstate Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez's webpage honoring his service on the Naval History and Heritage Command Website immediately as well as anyone who was removed under the guise of eliminating "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)" content as directed by your Executive Order 14151: "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing."

As you know, there are over two million people serving in the United States military today, either in Active Duty or Reserves. Over 30 percent of these individuals identify as belonging to a minority group, with 18 percent identifying as Latino or Hispanic and 20 percent women. These heroes face the possibility of having their courageous efforts erased from history by these overtly discriminatory initiatives.

Those targeted by these attacks include South Texas hero, Marine Corps Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez, who has been removed from the Naval History Website. Sergeant Gonzalez was tragically killed in action on February 4, 1968, and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his brave and enduring service in the Vietnam War. History is clear, Sergeant Gonzalez was in charge of Third Platoon, Company A, near Hue City, Vietnam, when his company was ambushed for days. He maneuvered his men and returned fire, personally carrying wounded warriors to safety. Doing so, he bravely gave his life for his country. Unlike your Administration, he did not ask what ethnicity these men were, what religion they practiced, or what country they were from. The fact is they were all Americans, fighting one of, if not the most, atrocious and unpopular war in our country's history.

The erasure also targets Private First Class Harold Gonsalves, who was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor for Valor during World War II; Major General Jeannie M. Leavitt, the country's first female fighter pilot; and PFC Christina Fuentes Montenegro, one of the first three women to graduate from Marine Corps' Infantry Training Battalion.

Your Administration has previously targeted other notable heroes in our nation's military: from our Tuskegee Airmen who bravely fought against Nazi Germany during World War II, to our Navajo Code Talkers who helped us defeat Japan, to General Colin Powell who was the first Black American to hold the office of Secretary of State, these American patriots represent the best of our country.

These appalling efforts to erase history under the guise of eliminating DEI content knows no bounds. Removing Hispanic and Latinos, women, and other minorities from our nation's archives due to nothing more than the color of their skin, last name or gender is un-American.

These brave men and women fought and oftentimes laid down their lives for a country that is erasing their achievements for heinous reasons. Honoring these brave individuals is not about diversity or equity. Honoring them is about remembering their great sacrifice and dutiful service to our nation. We stand firm in our commitment to defending the integrity of our military and the truth of its history, and demand that you halt any continued effort to erase our veterans and servicemembers from the record under the guise of purging DEI content.

We also ask that you reinstate Sgt. Gonzalez's webpage honoring his service on the Naval History and Heritage Command Website as well as anyone that was removed under the guise of eliminating DEI content. Additionally, as Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, we urge you to reaffirm your commitment to the selfless men and women who gave their lives to our nation, those who currently serve, and our veterans regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or background.

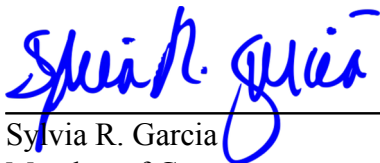
Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress




Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



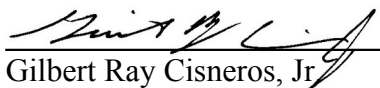
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



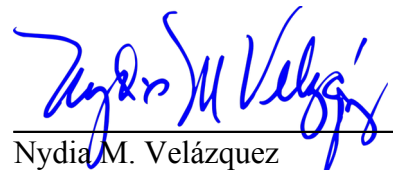
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



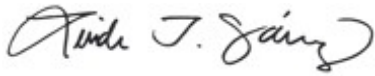
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



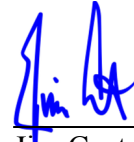
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



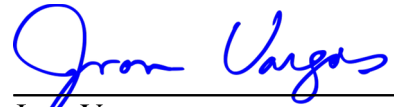
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



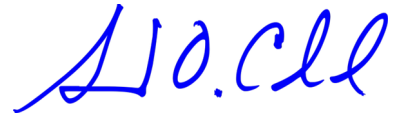
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



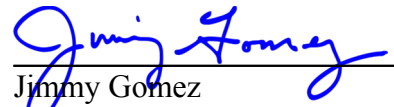
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



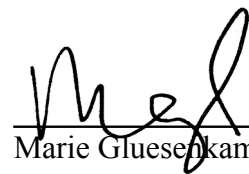
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



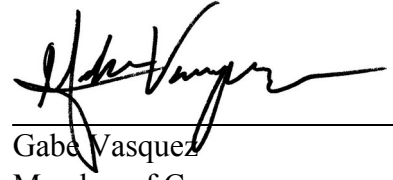
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



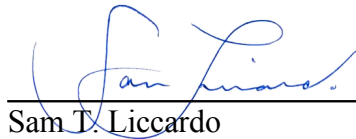
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



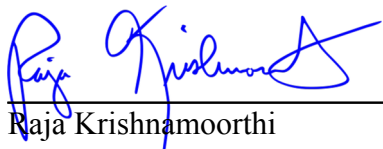
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress
Scion of the Enslaved Africans -
Sacrificed to Make America Great



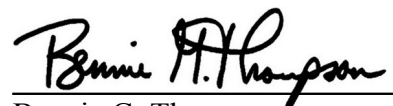
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



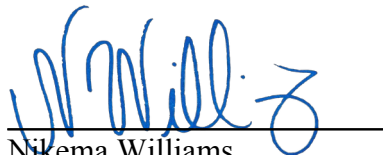
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



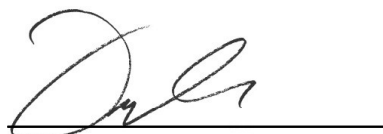
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



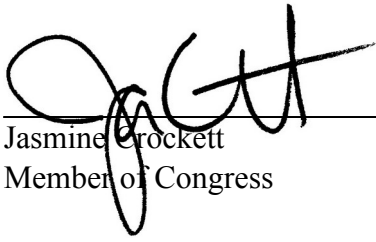
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



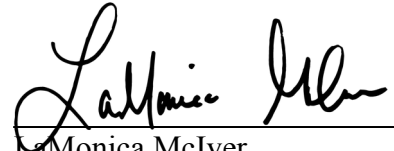
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



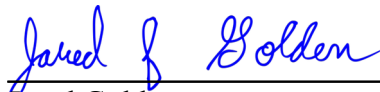
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



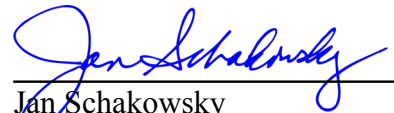
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



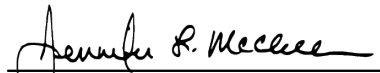
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress