

A LONG TALK

ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

The Frontline

Alongtalk.com

Volume II (July)

Blacks and the Military



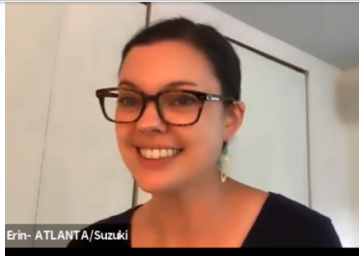
Blacks and the Military

What does it mean to be a patriot? Merriam-Webster defines a patriot as “one who loves and supports his or her country.” Recently the word “patriot” has been used fraudulently to describe people acting in a manner that it is anything but patriotic. What word describes a person who loves a country that doesn't love them back? Ever since Crispus Attucks, the first casualty of the American Revolution, black people have served valiantly to defend the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” Black people who serve in the Armed Forces like their white counterparts take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. And although the Constitution was not written with black people in mind, black soldiers have made and continue to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend “democracy.” As black soldiers “bear true faith and allegiance” to the United States, they have been subjected to continued efforts to marginalize the black citizens of the United States of America. So the next time you use the word “patriot” think about the level of love and support a person must have to fight for a country that often fights against them.

On this July 4th, celebrate the Patriotic black men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces defending the idea “...that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

~Mark Holbrook
COO, A Long Talk

A Long Talk Community Member Spotlight



Meet Erin Cassel:

Erin is a very active member of the A Long Talk community and one of the pioneers of the Pillars of Change (POC) cohort, committed to being an active antiracist and change agent in her city. Erin currently resides in Atlanta, GA with her husband and two young children. She is a musician - a cellist! - and also an educator, providing private lessons to children ages 4 through high school. Erin also teaches at the university level at Morehouse College, and plays in an eclectic fusion cello quartet! Furthermore, she serves on the Board of the Atlanta Suzuki Institute (the Suzuki Method is an innovative, holistic method of musical instruction). As if that isn't enough to keep her busy, she has chosen to take on the challenge of being an active antiracist!

As many people have commented, last summer was both heartbreaking and extremely frustrating as we sat at home through COVID and watched yet another instance of an abominable police atrocity resulting in the death of George Floyd. While this was not the first time Erin thought about antiracist work, it was certainly the catalyst to greater action. As she learned about A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth through her work with the Atlanta Suzuki Institute, her passion was ignited. She, along with members of her board, took swift actions to bring A Long Talk to the entire Suzuki Institute. So far about 90 educators in the Institute have gone through A Long Talk!

As Erin was plowing through the prework for her first A Long Talk experience, Erin became enthralled in the historical aspects of our country's purposeful deception of the masses and began to sift through "tons of stuff: articles and books and research on the internet" to learn more. "My brain just clicked into this...I mean, I hate to use the word "shame"... but *disbelief* that I'd lived this long without knowing a lot of this stuff that we need to know."

Erin is now the creator and curator of *Relearning U.S. History*, an instagram account dedicated to discovering the vast, varied, and clandestine details of our country's history. (Check out *Relearning U.S. History* [here](#).)

"I just felt that was the most immediate way that I could have some tiny impact on my family and friend group on social media."

As we mentioned previously, Erin is an active member of the Pillars of Change (POC), and a leader in her cohort. She is a curious, motivated, resourceful and encouraging colleague, always willing to have a conversation or share a vital piece of information. "I'm constantly inspired by the people on the call. I mean, we're talking even older generation people in rural Georgia who have always lived one way and get on the calls and testify about how they're changing their own lives and they're changing

Moving forward, Erin hopes to further explore the realm of Crime and Punishment, one of the quarterly sectors of study within the POC, and how she can make a greater impact there. As an educator, she will continue to pursue as many opportunities as possible to align others to the work of A Long Talk and bring more allies to the table. Keep the fire burning, Erin! Together we can.

A Long Talk Joins The Awakening Educator Podcast



We'd like to thank Susan Andrien and Dr. Megan Sweet, the hosts of The Awakening Educator Podcast, for having the ALT CEO, Kyle Williams, and ALT President, Kamal Carter, on their show to discuss the work we are doing to put an "antiracist at every dinner table in America."

Click the image to watch the interview.

Frederick Douglass asks... "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"



Former slave turned abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, spoke to a distinguished audience on July, 5, 1852 regarding the meaning of the 4th of July to the slave. The intentionality and power behind his words are nothing short of remarkable.

Click the image to watch excerpts from his speech read by some of his descendants.

Click [HERE](#) to read the speech in its entirety.

A Black Women's Military Story



African American women serving in the armed forces made contributions during World War II that have largely gone unnoticed.

Click the image to see the story of this all Black women's Army Corp unit.

African American Heroism in the Military



There are countless stories of heroism by African Americans in the military dating back to the American Revolution. Click the image to see brief stories and 2 short videos from the [Military.com](https://www.military.com) website.

Shout-outs From The Frontline



The Frontline would like to give shout-outs to *Charles City Schools in Iowa, Coaches 4 Change, Taft Communications & Friends, Dev Technology, and the Chambersburg Area School District of Pennsylvania's 4th cohort.* We commend you on your commitment as you begin your journey to become an ally in the fight to dismantle white supremacy. Your participation in A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth is only the beginning. We look forward to continuing this conversation as we get to work on the task of putting "an anti-racist at every dinner table in America." We salute you for your groundbreaking work on the frontlines of the War on Ignorance!

We stand with you as you stand with us!

Together we can!

Click the images to visit their websites.

Culture Corner



Hannibal Barca of Carthage

This North African General is credited with being among



General Toussaint L'Ouverture

Born a slave in the French colony of what is now

Charles Young

The third Black graduate in the history of the US Military Academy at West Point endured many bouts with racism to serve his country.

Click the image to learn more.

and Rome's biggest nightmare. He led the Carthaginians in battle against Rome during the 2nd Punic War.

Click the image to learn more.

Haitian general in the prominent leader in the Haitian Revolution.

Click the image to learn more about his life and wrongful death.

State of the Union

Current Events



The Black admirals and generals in the US Military since the 1940's have shown up to serve America. *Click the image to learn more.*



Listen to this military family share their perspective on the topic, "The Military is no Place for a Black Man." *Click the image to watch the video.*

[Like our Facebook Page](#)

History Matters



Who were the Buffalo Soldiers and what roles did they play in American Military history? *Click the image to answer these questions.*



The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American aviators in the United States Armed Forces. The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is rich, storied, and still making an impact. *Click the image to learn more.*

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