

**Anna Kelton Wiley** was a suffragist and social reformer. She was arrested in November 1917 for protesting outside the White House in support of women's suffrage.

This quote is from her 1918 article for the magazine *Good Housekeeping*, "Why We Picketed the White House."

“

We determined to organize at the White House gates, a silent, daily reminder of the insistence of our claims... The anguish in the world today, caused by arrogant, autocratic governments, proves that all educated, responsible, human beings should participate in the maintenance of the governments under which they live....

Two hundred and eighteen women have been arrested, and ninety-one have served jail sentences. Of the hardships and cruelty imposed upon us in jail it is not my purpose to speak. Suffice it to say that the untenable position of imprisoning women for demanding democracy at home, while sacrificing precious lives in securing democracy abroad, could be endured no longer.

”

**Denton Winslow Crocker, Jr.** ran away from home at age 17 to enlist in the Army.

The quote below is from a letter he left for his parents explaining his reasons for joining the Army. He was killed in Vietnam in 1966, the day after his 19th birthday.

“

I wanted to join the service this year which I knew you would never allow. My reasons for wanting to join were:

1. A realization that without military force S.E. Asia would collapse. I wanted and still want to help the Vietnamese to keep their freedom.
2. Even if I was not sent to Vietnam I could still use my military training in helping freedom loving peoples after I was discharged...
4. I wanted to earn my own way in the world while helping people at the same time. I still believe that individual freedom is the most important thing in the world and I am willing to die defending that idea.

”

**Earl Warren** was Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1953 to 1969.

This quote comes from the majority opinion he wrote in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), a case that ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional and affirmed the principle of equality under the law.

“

We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of “separate but equal” has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

”

**Robert F. Kennedy** was Attorney General from 1961 to 1964 and a Senator from 1965 to 1968. He advocated for civil rights, fought organized crime, and championed social justice.

This quote is from a 1966 speech he delivered to students at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

“

The way of opposition to communism, however, is not to imitate its dictatorship, but to enlarge individual human freedom....

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

”



*Robert F. Kennedy speaking to a civil rights rally outside the Justice Department, June 14, 1963.*

**Harvey W. Wiley** was a chemist and public health advocate who led the fight against unsafe food and drugs in the early 20th century. His work led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, which gave the federal government the power to regulate food and medicine to protect consumers.

This quote is from his 1929 book *History of a Crime Against the Food Law*.

“

If the Bureau of Chemistry had been permitted to enforce the law as it was written and as it tried to do, what would have been the condition now?...The health of our people would be vastly improved and their life greatly extended. The manufacturers of our food supply, and especially the millers, would devote their energies to improving the public health and promoting happiness in every home by the production of whole ground, unbolted cereal flours and meals.

”

**Zitkála-Ša** was a Yankton Dakota Sioux writer, educator, and activist who advocated for Native American rights, citizenship, and cultural preservation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This quote is from a speech she gave to the Society of American Indians in 1919.

“

We are here like other human beings and there is no reason why we should be afraid to hold up our heads...We must continue speaking and claiming our human rights to live on this earth that God has made, so that we may think our thoughts and speak them — that we may have our part in the American life and be as any other human beings are....

It is necessary that we organize, that we may act as a body; that we may put our ideas together and choose the best...Let us all express what seems to us the thing that is needed, and we will assort and choose that which we must strive for at this time.

”

**George C. Marshall** was a U.S. Army general and statesman who served as Army chief of staff during World War II, and then as secretary of state from 1947 to 1949. As secretary of state, he proposed the Marshall Plan, a program that provided economic aid to help rebuild war-torn Western European nations.

This quote is from a speech he delivered about the Marshall Plan in 1947.

“

It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.

”

**John F. Kennedy** was president of the United States from 1961 until his assassination on November 22, 1963. His presidency envisioned a “New Frontier” of domestic progress and global leadership.

This quote is from Kennedy’s 1962 address to Congress about national health concerns.

“

Basically, health care is a responsibility of individuals and families, of communities and voluntary agencies, of local and state governments. But the federal Government shares this responsibility by providing leadership, guidance and support in areas of national concern...

Good health is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of “pursuit of happiness.” Whenever the miracles of modern medicine are beyond the reach of any group of Americans, for whatever reason--economic, geographic, occupational or other--we must find a way to meet their needs and fulfill their hopes. For one true measure of a nation is its success in fulfilling the promise of a better life for each of its members. Let this be the measure of our nation.

”

**Thurgood Marshall** served as a Supreme Court justice from 1967 to 1991. Before joining the Supreme Court, he was a prominent civil rights lawyer.

This quote is from his oral argument in the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), in which he argued that segregation of schools based on race was unconstitutional.

“

The only way that this Court can decide this case in opposition to our position is that there must be some reason which gives the state the right to make a classification that they can make in regard to nothing else in regard to Negroes; and we submit the only way to arrive at this decision is to find that for some reason Negroes are inferior to all other human beings....

It can't be because of slavery in the past, because there are very few groups in this country that haven't had slavery some place back in the history of their groups. It can't be color because there are Negroes as white as the drifted snow, with blue eyes, and they are just as segregated as the colored man. The only thing can be is an inherent determination that the people who were formerly in slavery, regardless of anything else, shall be kept as near that stage as is possible; and now is the time, we submit, that this Court should make it clear that that is not what our Constitution stands for.

”



*The three lawyers who argued against school segregation in the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* celebrate their victory outside the Supreme Court, May 1954 (left to right): George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James M. Nabrit.*

**Helen Taft** was first lady of the United States from 1909 to 1913 and an active advocate for women’s rights, education, and public health. After viewing the poor condition of various federal buildings, she pressed her husband, President William Howard Taft, to issue an executive order (Executive Order 1498) to inspect and improve them.

This quote is from a 1912 newspaper article, “Aided by Mrs. Taft,” which reported on the executive order.

“

President Taft’s order Friday, providing for the systematic inspection of all government buildings, to improve sanitary conditions, has revealed the interest Mrs. Taft is taking in the welfare of the men and women who serve in the numerous government departments....

This is the first time that a systematic effort has been made to improve sanitary conditions, and protect the health of the employes. Such policies are pursued by several foreign governments.

”

**Hugo Black** served as a U.S. Supreme Court justice from 1937 to 1971.

This quote comes from the majority opinion he wrote in *Wesberry v. Sanders* (1964), a case which ruled that Congressional districts must be approximately equal in population.

“

No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live....While it may not be possible to draw congressional districts with mathematical precision, that is no excuse for ignoring our Constitution's plain objective of making equal representation for equal numbers of people the fundamental goal for the House of Representatives. That is the high standard of justice and common sense which the Founders set for us.

”

**George C. Marshall** was a U.S. Army general and statesman who served as Army chief of staff during World War II, and then as secretary of state from 1947 to 1949. As secretary of state, he proposed the Marshall Plan, a program that provided economic aid to help rebuild war-torn Western European nations.

This political cartoon shows a windmill made up of European flags with the flag of the United States as the rudder. The cartoon promotes American support of war-torn European countries following World War II – but it also reveals the limits of that support. Amidst the escalating Cold War, the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies rejected Marshall Plan aid. Thus, the only flags represented here those of U.S. allies.



**Medgar Evers** was a civil rights activist and U.S. Army veteran who worked to end racial segregation, expand voting access and registration, and secure equal rights for African Americans during the 1950s and 1960s.

This quote is from a speech he gave to the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP in 1959.

“

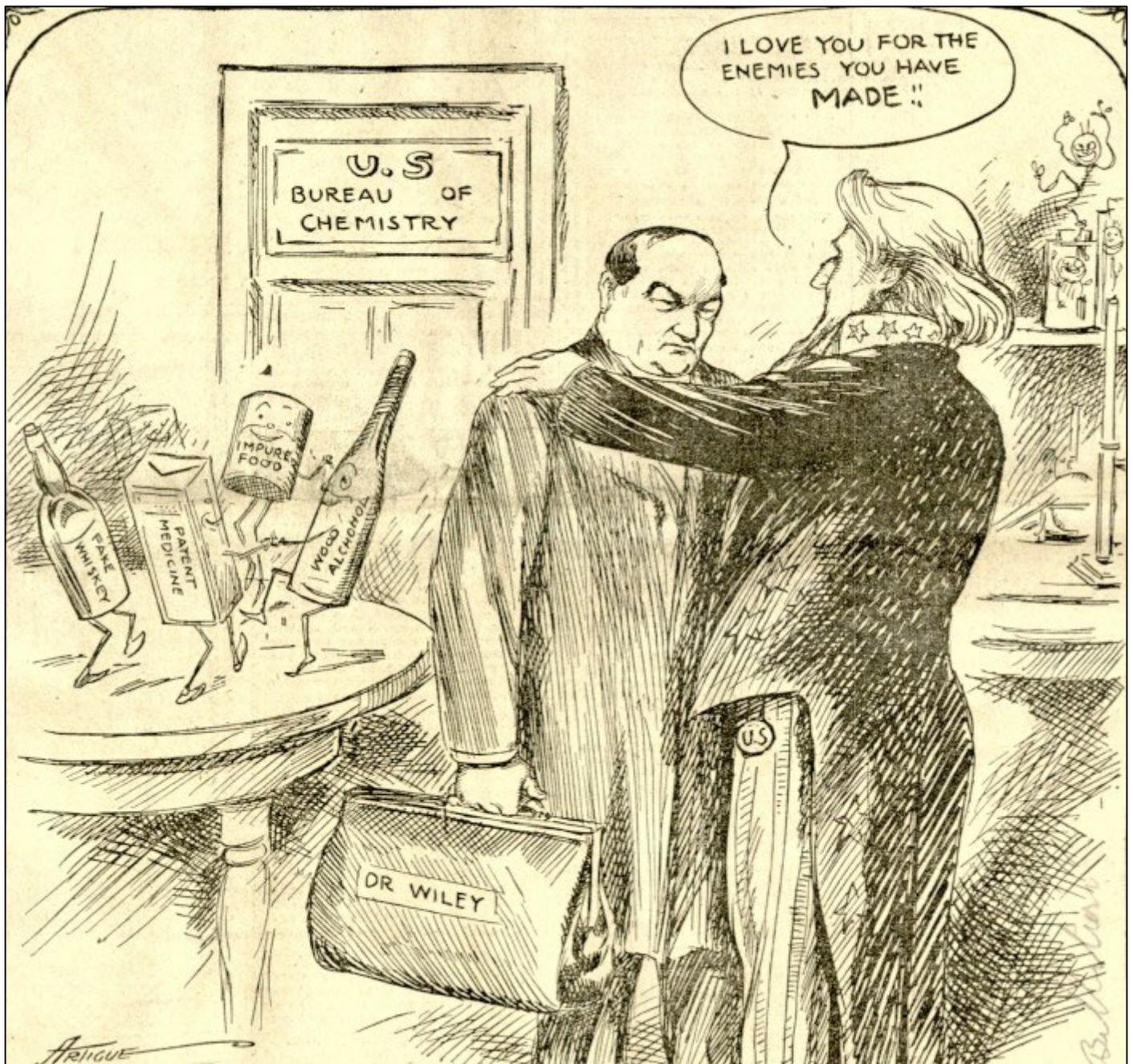
It is necessary that we put forth every effort, every effort to do what we can to make freedom a reality for everybody here in this great country....

We are confident that we will achieve victory, not through violence, but through the channels provided by the Constitution of the United States of America, through the courts, political action, and education. If we work with sufficient dedication, we will be able to achieve in the not-too-distant future a society in which no one is discriminated against because of race, creed, or color.

”

**Harvey W. Wiley** was a chemist and public health advocate who led the fight against unsafe food and drugs in the early 20th century. His work helped lead to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, which gave the federal government the power to regulate food and medicine to protect consumers.

This political cartoon shows Uncle Sam thanking Dr. Wiley for his work as head of the Bureau of Chemistry.



The Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that schools must be desegregated, but many schools in the South resisted. In 1957, nine Black students enrolled at an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, but they were prevented from entering by protestors and members of the Arkansas National Guard deployed by Governor Orval Faubus. President Eisenhower ordered soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army to escort the students to school.

This quote is from a 2011 article in which **Jack Damron**, a member of the 101st Airborne Division, was interviewed about his experience escorting the students.

“

For the first two or three days there was a certain amount of tension, but it was mostly on the part of a few hecklers who crossed the line and were moved back from the school...

I was honored to be chosen as the escort officer for the students. It was a grave responsibility and fortunately there were no incidents or threats made against the students while they were in my charge.

”



*Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division stand guard while African American students attend school at Little Rock Central High School in September 1957.*

**James McCubbin Lingan** was an officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution and a strong advocate of freedom of the press. Near the beginning of the War of 1812, he was killed by a mob while defending the office of an anti-war newspaper.

This quote is from an 1812 newspaper article about the incident.

“

Resolved, That we view with horror and indignation the lawless proceeding which have been carried on in Baltimore for the last six weeks against the Liberty of the Press, the Security of Person and Property, and every privilege which is assured by the social compact....

Resolved, That we feel penetrated with the deepest sorrow for the loss of our virtuous, brave, and patriotic fellow-citizen and friend, Gen. JAMES M. LINGAN, who will ever be remembered as the tender husband, the indulgent father, the honoured and beloved neighbor, the brave revolutionary hero, the magnanimous patriot, who loved his country better than his own life.

”

**Jerome Yellin** joined the Army Air Corps in 1942, when he was 18 years old. He became a fighter pilot and flew 19 missions over Japan. The Japanese government announced its surrender while he was flying his final mission.

This quote is from a 2009 interview with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

“

[O]n December 7, 1941, I woke up and learned that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Japanese, and I made up my mind on that day that I was going to be a pilot and fly fighter planes against the Japanese who attacked our country.

”

**Jeanne Holm** served in the Army during World War II and in the Air Force during the Cold War. During her service as director of Women in the Air Force, she worked to expand roles for women in the military.

This quote is from an interview she gave in 2003 with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

“

I feel that women should be in any field that they can perform under any circumstances. And so I set about trying to open as many fields as I could, and using whatever gimmick it took to open up more fields to women.

”



*Jeanne M. Holm  
receiving the rank  
of brigadier  
general in 1971.*

**John Follin** served in the Continental Navy during the American Revolution.

This quote is from an 1814 letter he wrote to his son, who was serving in the Army during the War of 1812.

“

But my son let virtuous principles ever actuate your breast and warm with indignant feelings my Republican blood which flows in the veins of you my son against the disaffected in our Land. You have often heard me Recount my sufferings by those despots you now oppose in our long and arduous struggle for those liberties you are now in arms to defend. Then shall my youthfull efforts added to the many sufferings and hardships I then endured to obtain the Independence of our happy country and convey it as the best Inheritance to future generations be wantonly or traitourously Resigned unto the hands of those from whom we wrested it. No my son I hope you will stand firm in the Liberties of your Courage and defend them against External or internal foes

”

**John F. Kennedy** was president of the United States from 1961 until his assassination on November 22, 1963. His presidency envisioned a “New Frontier” of domestic progress and global leadership.

This quote is from a speech he delivered celebrating the 20th anniversary of Voice of America, an international broadcaster founded to support press freedom abroad.

“

We welcome the views of others. We seek a free flow of information across national boundaries and oceans, across iron curtains and stone walls. We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.

”

**Jimmie Kanaya** enlisted in the Army in April 1941 and served as a medic. His parents were Japanese immigrants. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, they were forced into an internment camp because of their Japanese ancestry. Kanaya served with distinction in the Army's 442nd Infantry Regiment, a unit made up primarily of Japanese Americans.

This quote is from an interview he gave in 2004 with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

“

We were formed to prove our loyalty, just to see if we would fight. If we felt so badly about our parents being incarcerated and being called a potential hazard to our country. Traitors, if you will. What else can you do? We had to prove ourselves.

”



*Jimmie Kanaya receiving a battlefield commission in recognition of his heroism and leadership evacuating casualties from the battlefield.*

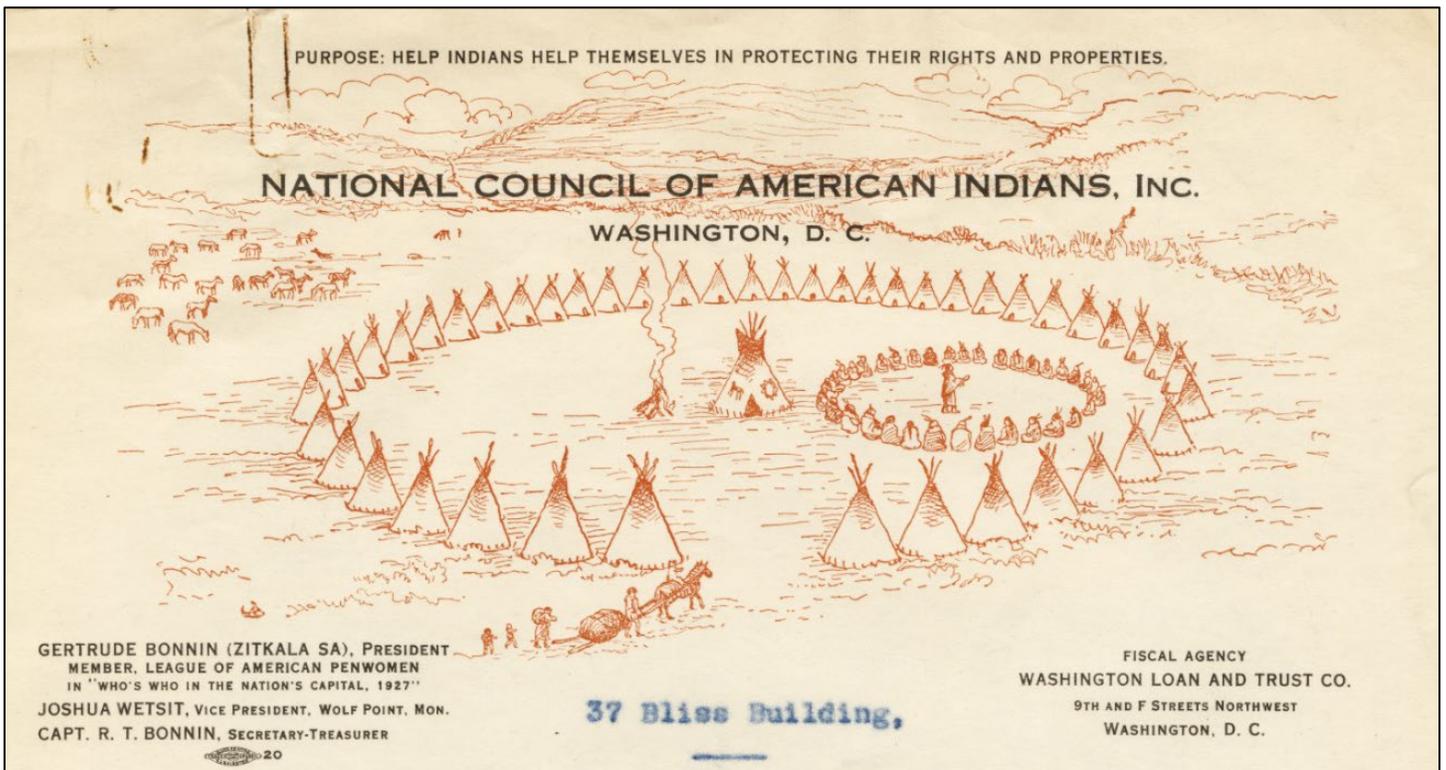
**Medgar Evers** was a civil rights activist and U.S. Army veteran who worked to end racial segregation, expand voting access and registration, and secure equal rights for African Americans in the 1950s and 1960s.

This photo shows Medgar Evers (center right) and NAACP national secretary Roy Wilkins (center left) being arrested on June 1, 1963, for picketing a store in Jackson, Mississippi, to protest its discriminatory business practices.



**Zitkála-Ša** was a Yankton Dakota Sioux writer, educator, and activist who advocated for Native American rights, citizenship, and cultural preservation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She was also known by her Americanized name, Gertrude Bonnin.

This National Council of American Indians letterhead shows their purpose in organizing American Indians toward political action. Zitkála-Ša and her husband, U.S. Army Captain Raymond Bonnin (also of Dakota Sioux descent), founded this organization. Note their names in the bottom left corner.



PURPOSE: HELP INDIANS HELP THEMSELVES IN PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS AND PROPERTIES.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN INDIANS, INC.**  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GERTRUDE BONNIN (ZITKALA SA), PRESIDENT  
MEMBER, LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PENWOMEN  
IN "WHO'S WHO IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, 1927"

JOSHUA WETSIT, VICE PRESIDENT, WOLF POINT, MON.  
CAPT. R. T. BONNIN, SECRETARY-TREASURER

**37 Bliss Building,**

FISCAL AGENCY  
WASHINGTON LOAN AND TRUST CO.  
9TH AND F STREETS NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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**John Foster Dulles** was U.S. secretary of state from 1953 to 1959 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. His foreign policy was defined by strong opposition to communism through military build-up and forming alliances.

This quote is from a 1952 article Dulles wrote for *Life* magazine, titled “A Policy of Boldness.”

“

Liberation from the yoke of Moscow will not occur for a very long time, and courage in neighboring lands will not be sustained, unless the United States makes it publicly known that it wants and expects liberation to occur. The mere statement of that wish and expectation would change, in an electrifying way, the mood of the captive peoples. It would put heavy new burdens on the jailers and create new opportunities for liberation....

We could welcome the creation in the free world of political “task forces” to develop a freedom program for each of the captive nations. Each group would be made up of those who are proved patriots, who have practical resourcefulness and who command confidence and respect at home and abroad.

”

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg** served as a Supreme Court justice from 1993 to 2020. Before joining the Supreme Court, she was a leading advocate for gender equality under the law.

This quote is from a brief she wrote for the Supreme Court case *Reed v. Reed* (1971), which established that laws automatically favoring men over women were unconstitutional.

“

The myth that women are inherently disqualified for full participation in public life as independent persons is no longer acceptable. Yet this Court's silence has deferred recognition by the law that women are full persons, entitled as men are to due process guarantees and the equal protection of the laws. The time to break the vicious cycle which sex discriminatory laws create is overdue.

”

**Milton Holland** was born into slavery and fought in the U.S. Army during the Civil War as a member of the United States Colored Troops (the Army's official name for segregated Black units during the Civil War era).

This quote is from a letter he wrote to his local newspaper in 1864.

“

Several of the white cavalry told me that no soldiers have ever done as hard marching through swamps and marshes as cheerfully as we did, and that if they had to follow us for any length of time it would kill their horses....

Friends at home be cheerful...Spring forth to the call and show to the world that you are men. You have thus far shown, and still continue to show yourselves worthy of freedom, and you will win the respect of the whole nation. There is a brighter day coming for the colored man, and he must sacrifice home comforts if necessary to speed the coming of that glorious day.

”



*Milton Holland wearing his Medal of Honor, in recognition of his bravery at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm.*

**Matthew Ridgway** was a U.S. Army general who served in World War II, the Korean War, and as Chief of Staff of the Army from 1953 to 1955.

This quote is from a 1951 memo he wrote to soldiers under his command during the Korean War.

“

The real issues are whether the power of Western civilization, as God has permitted it to flower in our own beloved lands, shall defy and defeat Communism; whether the rule of men who shoot their prisoners, enslave their citizens, and deride the dignity of man, shall displace the rule of those to whom the individual and his individual rights are sacred....

[T]his has long since ceased to be a fight for freedom for our Korean Allies alone and for their national survival. It has become, and it continues to be, a fight for our own freedom, for our own survival, in an honorable, independent national existence.

The sacrifices we have made, and those we shall yet support, are not offered vicariously for others, but in our own direct defense.

”

**Medgar Evers** was a civil rights activist and U.S. Army veteran who worked to end racial segregation, expand voting access and registration, and secure equal rights for African Americans in the 1950s and 1960s.

This quote is from a 1962 interview with CBS reporter Bill Peters.

“

We would hope that everybody would be able to register and vote and be able to elect those officials who are going to best serve the community... We're just not interested in voting so that conditions will be improved for Negroes. We want conditions improved for everybody. We feel that in this country that all persons should have an opportunity to register and vote and do all the things that the Constitution guarantees them.

”

**Anna Kelton Wiley** was a suffragist and social reformer. She was arrested in November 1917 for protesting outside the White House in support of women's suffrage.

This photograph shows suffragists picketing outside the White House, holding a banner with an excerpt from a speech that President Woodrow Wilson delivered to Congress regarding why the United States should enter World War I. According to Anna Kelton Wiley, women holding this banner were the first to be arrested in the summer of 1917.



**Lewis Merrill** served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1855 to 1886. After the Civil War, he was assigned to help break up the Ku Klux Klan, which was terrorizing African Americans in the South.

This quote is from an 1872 report Merrill wrote about his success arresting Klan members in South Carolina.

““

Many of the Ku Klux leaders suspected that means were being devised to bring them to justice, and with the cowardice which had characterized all their infamous crimes, fled, leaving their poorer followers and ignorant dupes to stand sponsors for the crimes of which they had been the chief authors and instigators.

Looking about for their chiefs and councilors and finding that to get orders or advice they must go to them in jail or follow their flight, they recognized the fact that the game was up. Conspirators of every grade of criminality have come in and surrendered by the score...In some instances, whole klans headed by their chief came in and surrendered together.

””

**Earl Warren** was Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1953 to 1969.

This quote comes from the majority opinion he wrote in *Reynolds v. Sims*, a case that ruled that districts for state legislative chambers must be approximately equal in population. The decision established the principle of “one person, one vote,” meaning each person’s vote should carry about the same weight.

“

Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests....

Overweighting and overvaluation of the votes of those living here has the certain effect of dilution and undervaluation of the votes of those living there. The resulting discrimination against those individual voters living in disfavored areas is easily demonstrable mathematically... Weighting the votes of citizens differently, by any method or means, merely because of where they happen to reside, hardly seems justifiable.

”

**Orindatus Simon Bolivar (OSB) Wall** was born into slavery and fought in the U.S. Army during the Civil War as a member of the United States Colored Troops. In 1858, he was arrested, along with 36 other men, for helping rescue a fugitive enslaved person who had been captured by slave catchers. After they were indicted, the men held a dinner party where they read letters of support and made toasts celebrating the rescue.

This quote is from a letter by supporter John M. Vincent, which was read at the dinner.

“

Your position is a proud one. To be charged with the crime (!) of loving Liberty too well enrolls your names with that immortal band of Patriots who gave us the “Declaration of Independence,” and the foundation of free government.

Their sacrifices and sufferings, their firmness and resolution, we were early taught to admire and imitate. It has been left for our “latter day” Rulers to teach us that all our cherished ideas of freedom are vagaries, and that the liberty of the American Union is only that of White man to enslave the Black.

”

*A group of the men arrested for participating in the rescue of a fugitive enslaved person, standing outside the Cuyahoga County, Ohio jail in April 1859. OSB Wall is the second man on the left.*



**Ruth Bader Ginsburg** served as a Supreme Court justice from 1993 to 2020. Before joining the Supreme Court, she was an attorney, law school professor, and a leading advocate for gender equality under the law.

This quote is from her oral argument before the Supreme Court in the case *Frontiero v. Richardson* (1973), which established that military benefits cannot be awarded differently based on the service member's sex.

“

Sex, like race, is a visible, immutable characteristic, bearing no necessary relationship to a body. Sex, like race, has been made the basis for unjustified, or at least unproved, assumptions concerning an individual's potential to perform or contribute to society....

Why did the framers of the Fourteenth Amendment regard racial discrimination as odious? Because a person's skin color bears no necessary relationship to ability. Similarly, as appellees concede, a person's sex bears no necessary relationship to ability.

”

After the American Revolution, veterans of the Continental Army formed an organization called the Society of the Cincinnati. Members of the Society who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery include **James McCubbin Ligan**, **William Russell**, and **John Green**.

This quote is from the Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Society's founding document that was adopted in 1783, which laid out the purpose and operations of the organization.

“

It having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe, in the disposition of human affairs, to cause the separation of the Colonies of North America from the domination of Great Britain, and, after a bloody conflict of eight years, to establish them Free, Independent, and Sovereign States....

The following principles shall be immutable and form the basis of the Society of the Cincinnati.

An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

An unalterable determination to promote and cherish, between the respective States, that union and national honor so essentially necessary to their happiness, and the future dignity of the American Empire.

”

**Montgomery C. Meigs** was a career U.S. Army officer and quartermaster general of the Army during the Civil War. His son, John, also served in the Army and was killed at age 22 after unexpectedly encountering Confederate scouts behind U.S. lines.

This quote is from a letter Montgomery Meigs wrote to his father after John's death in 1864.

“

In no nobler cause can a man die...He died in the great fight of liberty of human rights. The old quarrel between the rich & the poor the few & the many...he died fighting on the side of the right the oppressed the poor & the feeble...I have given my best & bravest to his country who has laid a holier worthy victim upon the altar.

”

*John Rodgers Meigs' grave at Arlington National Cemetery, portraying him as he died after encountering Confederate scouts in October 1864.*

