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THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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## LA peace parades mark 25th anniversary of Rodney King riots

By Robert Jablon

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Twenty-five years ago, a jury acquitted four white police officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King, sparking looting and violence that would turn into one of the deadliest race riots in American history.

On April 29, hundreds of people marked the anniversary with marches advocating peace and hope.

A "Future Fest" began at Florence and Normandie avenues - the South Los Angeles intersection where rioting erupted - and was followed by a community festival.

Organizer Eric Ares, 34, is a lifelong resident of the area. He remembers the electricity going out in his house at the start of the rioting, leaving his family essentially cut off from the outside world without lights or a TV.

"For the next couple of nights, there was this fear going on," he said. "We were huddled up in the living room."

When he did venture outside, Ares saw plumes of smoke coming from places where buildings had been torched. But a small restaurant on the corner, a liquor store and other local businesses were untouched, he said.

People had a "real feeling of anger and frustration," but it was mainly directed at police, politicians and businesses they believed oppressed, neglected or exploited them, Ares said.

Graffiti on walls warned: "No justice, no peace," he said.

"I remember being at the park on the third day, people screaming: 'We're not gonna let them do it to us anymore,'" Ares said.

But while the march and festival marks the events of a quarter-century ago, the commemoration also looked to a future where community organizations are working to deal with problems still confronting South L.A., Ares said.

"There's still extreme poverty. There's still issues of law enforcement ... education and health care and access to good jobs," he said. "But the difference is, we have a plan."

About five miles north of the intersection, a peace parade was held in the Koreatown neighborhood, where tensions between black residents and Korean-American immigrant storekeepers led to markets, shops and gas stations being looted or burned. Some merchants stood guard with guns to protect their stores.

In the wake of the riots, community groups reached out and tried to mend fences.

On Saturday, several hundred people marched in an enthusiastic show of unity that included Korean drummers in traditional costume, a South Los Angeles drumline, taekwondo students and schoolchildren from Watts.

K. Choi, 73, of Arcadia, was among the marchers. He helped organize the original peace march days after the rioting and said he believed racial relations had vastly improved.

"At that time it was different," he said. "The politics and the social problems, whatever, all commingled together and then things exploded."

"But now is a very different situation," he said. "All those relationships are getting better between (the) Korean and black community, including (the) Spanish community ... we're getting along very good, and I hope we're getting a better future."



nscription on "Battle of Liberty Place" monument, 1936, as photographed by Dorothea Lange. (Farm Security Administration/Wikimedia Commons)

## New Orleans Begins Removing Racist Confederate Monuments

By Lauren Victoria Burke (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Against a backdrop of death threats and under the cover of night, officials in New Orleans have begun to dismantle Confederate monuments honoring racists of the Civil War and Jim Crow eras of United States history.

Workers removing the first of four monuments wore bullet-proof vests, helmets and hid their faces. By 5:45 a.m. on April 24, the monument was gone. Three more monuments are set to disappear, but the city is not announcing publicly which statues will be next and what date the removals will take place.

"The removal of these statues sends a clear and unequivocal message to the people of New Orleans and the nation: New Orleans celebrates our diversity, inclusion and tolerance," said New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu in a statement on April 24.

At a press conference the morning after the first monument, the Battle of Liberty Place Memorial, was removed, the Mayor stated that the other monuments would be removed, "sooner rather than later."

"Relocating these Confederate monuments is not about taking something away from someone else. This is not about politics, blame or retaliation. This is not a naïve quest to solve all our problems at once," the Mayor said. "This is about showing the whole world that we as a city and as a people are able to acknowledge, understand, reconcile—and most importantly—choose a better future. We can remember these divisive chapters in our history in a museum or other facility where they can be put in context—and that's where these statues belong."

The Liberty Place Monument celebrated an 1874 insurrection of a group of all-White, mostly Confederate veterans calling themselves the Crescent City White League. The group fought against the racially integrated New Orleans Metropolitan Police. The monument honored members of the Crescent City White League who died during the battle.

In 1932, a plaque was added to put an even finer point on the racist motivations behind the monument. The plaque in part read that the battle was fought to "overthrow of carpetbag government, ousting the usurpers" and that "the national election of November 1876 recognized white supremacy in the South and gave us our state."

According to The New York Times, "In 1993, the City Council voted to remove the obelisk, but instead the plaque was covered with a new one that read: 'In honor of those Americans on both sides who died in the Battle of Liberty Place' and called it 'a conflict of the past that should teach us lessons for the future.'"

The reactions on social media to the monument's removal were quite animated.

"It is more nuanced than that. One can support keeping the statues for accuracy...as a historical reminder of a shameful part of our history," wrote one commenter on Twitter.

Much social media discussion dealt with the issue of whether negative parts of American history should be commemorated.

"When are we gonna put up some Hitler statues, ya know, to remind us of those dark times in History?" another Twitter user stated.

Others debated the role of poor White southerners who participated in the Civil War.

"It was the North who refused to recognize blacks as people, resulting in the appalling 3/5 compromise. The South obviously wanted," wrote Erin Greer of Atlanta on Twitter.

A Twitter user, who identified himself as Clayton Barnes, responded: "And the South just wanted to own them, treat them terribly, and work them like animals."

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African American leadership. She is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Connect with Lauren by email at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on Twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke).



NCCU's Communication Disorders Program Faculty

## NCCU's Communications Disorders Program Receives Award

The Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders honored North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) Communications Disorders Program with its Diversity Incentive Award.

The award was presented at the organization's annual conference in New Orleans on April 20, 2017. This recognition acknowledges individuals and academic programs making significant contributions to diversity in the communication sciences and disorders field.

"We are grateful to have the Department of Communication Disorders recognized for its contributions to diversity," said Dr. Audrey W. Beard, School of Education dean. "This award motivates us to continue advancing our efforts in diversity."

NCCU's Department of Communication Disorders offers master's degrees in speech and pathology. Students working in the Hablemos! Speech Clinic, housed in the School of Education, receive course credit for providing high-quality treatment for speech and language delays to children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families in North Carolina, predominantly those of Hispanic descent. While delivering these services, students are being trained in therapeutic intervention techniques that are grounded in evidence-based practice.

"NCCU's Communication Disorders Program exemplifies diversity in its curriculum, service offerings, clients, students and faculty," said Katrina E. Miller, Communication Disorders Clinical director and associate professor. "Diverse learning and work environments are key to reaching mass audiences."

The NCCU School of Education offers degree programs in communication disorders, as well as elementary and middle-grades education, educational technology, school administration, community, career and school counseling; and five concentrations in special education. All programs are fully accredited by their respective bodies.

## Trump makes puzzling claim about Andrew Jackson, Civil War

By Jonathan Lemire

NEW YORK (AP) - President Donald Trump made puzzling claims about Andrew Jackson and the Civil War in an interview, suggesting he was uncertain about the origin of the conflict while claiming that Jackson was upset about a war that started 16 years after his death.

Trump, who has at times shown a shaky grasp of U.S. history, said he wonders why issues "could not have been worked out" in order to prevent the secession of 11 Southern states and a war that lasted four years and killed more than 600,000 soldiers.

"People don't realize, you know, the Civil War, if you think about it, why?" Trump said in an interview with The Washington Examiner, according to a transcript released May 1. "People don't ask that question, but why was there the Civil War? Why could that one not have been worked out?"

Trump ruminated after lauding Jackson, the populist president whom he and his staff have cited as a role model. He suggested that if Jackson had been president "a little later, you wouldn't have had the Civil War."

"He was really angry that he saw what was happening with regard to the Civil War. He said, 'There's no reason for this,'" Trump continued.

But Jackson died in 1845, and the Civil War didn't begin until 16 years later, in 1861.

Jackson was a slave-holding plantation owner. Some historians do credit him with preserving the union when South Carolina threatened to secede in the 1830s over an individual state's ability to void federal tariffs. That controversy, though, was not about slavery, and the eventual compromise that preserved states' rights is viewed as a milestone on the way to the Civil War.

The Civil War was decades in the making, stemming from disputes between the North and South about slavery and whether the union or states themselves had more power. The question over the expansion of slavery into new western territories simmered for decades and Southern leaders threatened secession if anti-slavery candidate Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860.

After Lincoln won without carrying a single Southern state, Southern leaders believed their rights were imperiled and seceded, forming the Confederate States of America. War erupted soon afterward as the North fought to keep the nation together.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for an explanation of Trump's reasoning.

Trump, during an African-American history month event, seemed to imply that the 19th century abolitionist Frederick Douglass was still alive. Trump said in February that Douglass "is an example of somebody who's done an amazing job and is getting recognized more and more, I notice."

While justifying the need for a southern border wall, Trump said last week that human trafficking is "a problem that's probably worse than any time in the history of this world," a claim that seemed to omit the African slave trade.