

Bakke vs Trump

Last week, I wrote about the history of women serving in our military. According to an official site of the US government, here are the requirements for joining the U.S. Military. To join the enlisted ranks, in general you must: 1. Be a U.S. citizen or Green Card holder, 2. Non-citizens must speak, read, and write English fluently, Non-citizens must currently live in the U.S., 3. Be in good health, 4. Be 17 to 40 years old (different branches have different age requirements), 5. Have a high school diploma (some branches will accept a GED) and 6. Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. To join as an officer, you must also have attended college. Nowhere in these qualifications does it say anything about race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or sexual identity. It really bothers me that the President is attempting to block a group of individuals from joining the military; transgender individuals. I truly believe that anyone meeting the above requirements and wants to serve our country, should be not only allowed but be encouraged to serve. I'm sure none of the people stranded by Harvey are asking to see birth certificates of the rescuing Guard members!

I agree with the President about not tearing down monuments. As a person very interested in History, I believe monuments and statues reflect our history. I can see some of the monuments and statues on public property being moved to museums, but not destroyed. Monuments and statues can and should be used as teaching and learning opportunities. We did have a Civil War and slavery was a significant reason for the southern states leaving the Union. We must talk about it as a factual event that occurred, not remove references to the War. While in the Air Force, one of my fellow airman broke up with his girlfriend because she attended a college party where a black man was present. Our concern should be about the hate groups in our country and the fear they disseminate.

Finally, regarding the pardon of Sheriff Arpaio, I believe the pardon has nothing to do with Arpaio. Rather, the pardon is a test for how we react, so the President can continue with additional pardons. Next, I expect him to pardon one or two of the 'very fine people' in the Charlottesville's demonstration. That will be followed by pardons to Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort and Vladimir Putin. Hey I'm not joking. If Putin is pardoned of crimes to the US, it puts a damper on the Russian investigation. Other pardons I expect will be to his family and to himself.

Finally, I am upset with ESPN for removing Robert Lee from broadcasting a University of Virginia football game. Lee is of Asian-American descent. As we all know, Lee is a very common last name among Asian-Americans while Robert is a very common name in the US, including my older brother.