

13 June 2020

Like many of our fellow Stanford students, we have been saddened and appalled by the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, David McAtee, Breonna Taylor, as well as far too many others. Many of us in the veterans' club chose to serve in the military, at least in part, due to a fundamental belief in the ideals of freedom and equality on which our country was founded. For too long, those ideals have remained only a dream, while thousands of people of color, especially black Americans, have experienced a far different reality.

For too long, too many of us have been ignorant or silent in the face of that reality. In the words of retired U.S. Marine Corps commandant, General Robert Neller, "The time for being silent has passed." We, the veterans of the Stanford GSB community, stand with the Black Lives Matter movement in support of ending institutional and personal racism and injustice.

We are committed to ensuring that this is more than momentary support. We make the following commitments as a club and veteran community:

- 1) Work to support the Allies for Black Lives efforts (e.g. [#all_alliesforblacklives](#) channel in Slack and support actions and organizations shared by allies in the Stanford community [here](#))
- 2) Work to build awareness of systemic racism and unconscious biases within the broad network of active duty and veteran servicemembers
- 3) Bring a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion lens to our efforts to support veteran recruitment to Stanford GSB and other top MBA programs
- 4) Work more closely with other identity groups to better understand others' experiences, build our understanding of intersectionality, and build a more supportive and inclusive community at Stanford

To fellow veterans and servicemembers, we urge you not to be distracted by the few instances of violent protests in the news and instead to listen to the real issues that are the cause. Take a look at the resources [here](#) and reexamine your own biases. Seek to truly listen and then work to support efforts toward systemic change. We will do the same.

A house divided cannot stand. In the words of former Defense Secretary, General James Mattis, "We need to unite around a common purpose. And it starts by guaranteeing that all of us are equal before the law." Only by ensuring that all of its people are truly free can America live up to its values and be the bastion of hope it strives to be. The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing. Although we have hung up our uniforms, our commitment to serve remains as a guiding principle and our core ethos. Today, the GSB veterans' community takes an oath to serve alongside those whose voices have been silenced for far too long.

Signed,
The Stanford GSB Veterans' Club