

National Mall *Liberty Fund D.C.*



August 23, 2008

Mr. Frank Martin
Director
For Love of Liberty
17003 Ventura Blvd. #200
Encino, California 91316

Dear Frank,

I am fortunate to have met Commander Gregory Black and received a copy of *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots*. While googling, "Morgan Freeman," for updates on his condition, I read an article that mentions your documentary would air on PBS. Then I discovered the Diversity Military World Heritage Expo2008 and knew I had to follow the synergy and communicate with both of you. In 1991, Mr. Freeman and I appeared together on *Good Morning America*. We were there to promote a memorial in Washington to the tens of thousands of black soldiers, patriots and freedom-seekers of the Revolutionary War. This National Liberty Memorial is yet to be built. But your film, and the discoveries and new perceptions since the idea's birth in 1985, are proof that it deserves to rise on the Mall in the company of memorials to Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

The genius of this documentary is multifaceted. The research, sweeping script, and artistry bring to life men, women and events that have been under the rug for 230 years. The repeated eagerness of African Americans to march for liberty while being held down by flag and country establishes them as the authentic embodiment of patriotism. Not only were they willing to offer up their lives and labor to America, they were willing to do so without first having tasted its bounty or felt the warmth of its promise. In the cast alone is a monumental message. Some served in America's defense and later advocated for films that told the truth about African Americans. Yet, like generations before, they still had to persevere for acceptance and equality.

Timing is another facet of the film's genius. At no other moment have Americans had a singular opportunity to project the accomplishments of achievers like General Colin Powell and Halle Berry. You are hastening the day when any citizen could visualize any promising African American reaching professional heights unthinkable when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. Most blacks until then could only aspire to die or wear out for their country. Actors like Lou Gossett, Jr., Ozzie Davis, Mr. Freeman and many others inspire children to dream light years beyond the stereotypes and self-sacrifice. To believe that they could become actors, doctors, lawyers, generals, Secretary of State and even president of the United States. This is the unfinished business of the soon-to-be unforgotten black patriots. Their story proclaims that they were not contented slaves, mindless cotton-pickers and uncalculating cannon fodder. They were on a mission to uplift those who followed.

Decades may pass before your film is fully understood and the fruit of the American Revolution easily within everyone's grasp. Long after the accolades, awards and the film, itself, pass into history, many young men and women finding their way will hear it sing to their self-esteem and self-confidence. The straightened trajectory of those lives, and the families they birth, could do America great good.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Barboza
Founder and CEO

cc: Gregory Black, CDR (ret) USN