

Hari Jones



Hari Jones is the curator of the African American Civil War Freedom Museum in Washington, DC. He is one of the foremost authorities on the role of African Americans in the Civil War. Hari's refreshingly new perspective on this subject reveals just how extensive and well-organized Americans of African descent were in their efforts to end slavery and gain their rights as citizens *in league with the Constitution*. Before Hari fully immersed himself in this subject matter, he served in the United States Marine Corps for over twenty years. He retired as a captain in 1997. Since then he has been conducting extensive research on African American military service throughout American history. Hari is convinced that one of the best ways to dispel the myths that marginalize the military contributions of African Americans is through museum exhibits. As the curator, content developer, and script writer for the African American Civil War Museum's exhibit entitled "The Glorious March to Liberty," he dispels such myths by employing the voices of the history makers to tell the story. "In our exhibit," he explains, "we quote no scholars. If you were not there in the making of the history, you do not get a quote in our exhibit."

Other than his work at the African American Civil War Museum, Hari has worked on exhibits that are currently on display across the country. He was a content developer for the National Park Service (NPS) museum at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Tuskegee, Alabama, a content adviser for the American Civil War Center exhibit "Take Our Stand" and a content adviser for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) exhibit "Discovering the Civil War." Television outlets, including the History Channel and the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) have also sought his expertise. He has appeared on the History Channel's "Gettysburg" documentary, PBS's "American Lives II with Henry Louis Gates," and Dr. Gates' newest

documentary “The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross.” Hari was also call on by NBC’s “Who Do You Think You Are?” to assist Vanessa Williams in understanding the contributions of her Civil War ancestor David Carll, who served in the 26th United States Colored Troops.

Hari is the author of a book of poetry and an historical series. *The Road to Emancipation: How the War to Preserve the Union Became a War to End Slavery* is the first in his series *For Light and Liberty* commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War was published in 2012. This series seeks to reveal the perspectives of the African descent freedom fighters who participated in the American drama that was the Civil War. In the first of the series, Hari focuses on how notable African Americans aligned themselves politically before the Civil War and how they viewed and contributed to the military and political developments that resulted in the acts of Congress on which President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was based. This series presents a new perspective on the activities of those African Americans who believed and came to believe that *in league with the Constitution of the United States* they could end the tyranny of slavery and gain their rights as citizens.