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Joshua trees

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Not even our fallen at Arlington National Cemetery escape Trump's DEI hate



Early risers get to view Joshua trees and a colorful sky.

DOD, Army websites scrub articles on Navajo Code Talkers, citing Trump DEI policies

Key Points

- The Defense Department and the Army removed references to the Navajo Code Talkers, citing President Donald Trump's new policies on diversity, equity and inclusion.
- The daughter of one Code Talker called the military's decision "unbelievable" and a frustrating attempt to erase history.
- The Navajo Code Talkers were an elite group of Marines who helped devise a code, using the Navajo language, that proved to be unbreakable by U.S. enemies during World War II.

The Department of Defense and U.S. Army have scrubbed articles on the Navajo Code Talkers and their contribution to America's victories during World War II, removing the information from websites as part of President Donald Trump's campaign against diversity, equity and inclusion.

In a memo dated Feb. 26, Sean Parnell, assistant to the Secretary of Defense, said that in response to Trump's executive orders, the military branches were required to remove news, feature articles, photos and videos that promote DEI. Any removed content from Defense Department websites and social media platforms were to be archived and retained per applicable records management policies.

That content included mentions of the Code Talkers.

"It is unbelievable," said Zonnie Gorman, daughter of the late Navajo Code Talker Carl Gorman, who was one of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers.

Zonnie Gorman, professional, longtime public historian, lecturer, and consultant on the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, told The Arizona Republic Monday that it was frustrating to witness attempts at erasing history.

"Indigenous people, we are so invisible in the United States to begin with, and this is such a massive step backward," said Gorman. "To dishonor these men, the [Navajo Code Talkers](#), and World War II, and Code Talkers that served in other branches of the service, to dishonor their service to the United States is unconscionable."

Over the weekend, Arlington National Cemetery reportedly scrubbed its website of various pages on grave sites and classroom lesson plans that highlighted the work of Black, Hispanic and female service members buried at the grounds, again due to Trump's DEI executive order.

What did the Navajo Code Talkers do in WWII

The Navajo Code Talkers have long been honored as heroes of World War II, with over 400 young Navajo men enlisting in the U.S. Marines and creating an unbreakable code based on the Navajo language. Many, including Gorman, lied about their age to serve a country that had granted them citizenship only 20 years earlier.

This encrypted code, never deciphered by the enemy, played a crucial role in the United States' success across the Pacific front from 1942 to 1945. Historians contend that the Code Talkers helped accelerate the war's end and, without question, saved thousands of lives.

"It's a disgrace to take this down because of DEI," said Bryan Davis, a Navajo Marine veteran who served from 2004-2015 and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. "The Navajo Code Talkers were an important part of winning World War II. Without the language and the efficiency of the code talkers, had that not taken place or used our code, we wouldn't have won World War II."

Like many Navajo veterans, Davis said he has always admired the Navajo Code Talkers, whose legacy ultimately inspired him to enlist in the Marines shortly after graduating high school. He said the history of the Code Talkers is vital and should not be erased, but rather taught.

"This history is something that should be shared with everybody," said Davis. "It's everybody's history. Everyone talks about American history, this is what it is."

Removal is a 'slap in the face,' Kelly says

In 1982, Navajo Code Talkers Day was established through a presidential proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. In 2020, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey signed legislation to make National Navajo Code Talkers Day a state holiday.

Navy veteran and Sen. Mark Kelly took to X on Monday to post his thoughts on the recent erasure of Navajo Code Talkers from the DOD and Army websites, calling it "a slap in the face to the Navajo community."

"There's a movement in this country where history is being removed...blatantly erasing contribution that made this country great." said former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Nez, who recently ran for Arizona's 2nd Congressional District, is a fluent Navajo speaker. While campaigning, he made a point to introduce himself in Navajo and remind non-Navajo voters that it was the language that helped win World War II.

"Many knew about the code talkers but it gave me the opportunity to share more of our history with others," said Nez. "So, when you see President Trump, his administration, saying this is part of DEI, he and his team should be reminded that Native Americans, Indigenous people, are embedded in the U.S. Constitution."

Nez: Histories are being erased

Efforts to remove references to the Navajo Code Talkers from military websites under the guise of DEI policies mark another blow to Indigenous communities. Last week, reports surfaced that the [Maricopa County Community College District](#) would eliminate student-of-color groups and clubs, including Native American clubs, and cancel the Native American convocations scheduled for May.

Neither Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren nor the Navajo Nation Council has issued a statement regarding the removal of articles on the Navajo Code Talkers. During a recent meeting, council members noted that neither Nygren nor the council has taken a position on Trump's executive orders.

"Navajo Nation Council, also Office of the President and Vice President, have not taken a position on these executive orders," said Council Delegate Danny Simpson. "One voice, we need that. We don't need a different voice from Navajo Nation Council or entities that receive federal funds, the Office of the President that does not work for us."

For now, websites maintained by the U.S. Marines, Air Force and Navy still include active links to articles on the Navajo Code Talkers, but for many people, the question remains how long they will last.

"I want to acknowledge the Marine Corps for not taking down their information on the Navajo Code Talkers," said Gorman. "I hope that remains true. They have a motto — Semper Fi — always faithful. They also never leave a Marine behind. I hope that erasing the Navajo Code Talkers from public knowledge is not an option for them."

American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the Armed Forces at five times the national average and have distinguished themselves in every major conflict for over 200 years. Despite making up approximately 1.4% of the U.S. population, Native people account for 1.7% of the military — excluding those who did not disclose their identity — giving them the highest per-capita participation of any group in U.S. military service, [according to National Indian Council of Aging](#).

"If we don't stand up and warrior up, what's next," said Nez. "What other histories are going to be erased and that should be a big concern for Indigenous people in this country."

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2025/03/18/dod-army-remove-navajo-code-talkers-materials-cite-trump-dei-riles/82502288007/>

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**['Not so fast': Native languages should be spoken and preserved, tribes say after Trump's 'English' order](#)**  
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Elon Musk is endangering California water. It takes people to run big federal projects

Opinion writer Tom Philp writes, "The mass layoffs of federal workers by President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk are about to hit key people who control California's water supply and are also responsible for flood protection protecting millions of Californians, particularly in Sacramento and the Central Valley. For decades, a federal agency known as the Bureau of Reclamation has steadily been fueling the West with the water and hydropower to make this civilization possible. It manages iconic structures such as Shasta and Hoover dams. Yet now it is being tasked essentially to plan its own destruction. According to a document obtained by The Bee, it has been analyzing budget and staff cuts up to 40%. This plan was scheduled to arrive on the desk of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum Friday, according to a Reclamation official

who has had direct knowledge of the evolving process. This process is on top of cuts of about 10% of 1,075 staffers serving California, Oregon and Nevada, that have already happened in recent weeks. ... ” [Read more from the Sacramento Bee.](#)

Reclamation anticipates adequate irrigation supply for the Klamath Basin

“The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation expects adequate irrigation supplies from Upper Klamath Lake this year. Specific details on projected demand and total supply were not provided in a March 6 letter from the agency to Paul Simmons, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association. The association, which received the document March 11, called the development “encouraging” in a post on its website. The president of the Klamath Irrigation District said the letter seemed exciting at first but wasn’t a binding legal document and provided “false hope” to farmers and other water users. ... ” [Read more from the Capital Press.](#)

SEE

ALSO: Bureau of Reclamation to allow full allocation for Klamath Project, from KDRV

EPA to revise Waters of the U.S. rule

“U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced last week that EPA will work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to review the definition of “[waters of the United States.](#)” EPA said it will move quickly to ensure that a revised definition follows the law, reduces red-tape, cuts overall permitting costs, and lowers the cost of doing business in communities across the country while protecting the nation’s navigable waters from pollution. Given the U.S. Supreme Court’s [watershed](#) decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, the agency said it is time to address the issue once and for all “in a way that provides American farmers, landowners, businesses, and states with clear and simplified direction.” ... ” [Read more from Water Finance & Management.](#)

Hurd working ‘behind the scenes’ to unfreeze funds for critical water rights purchase

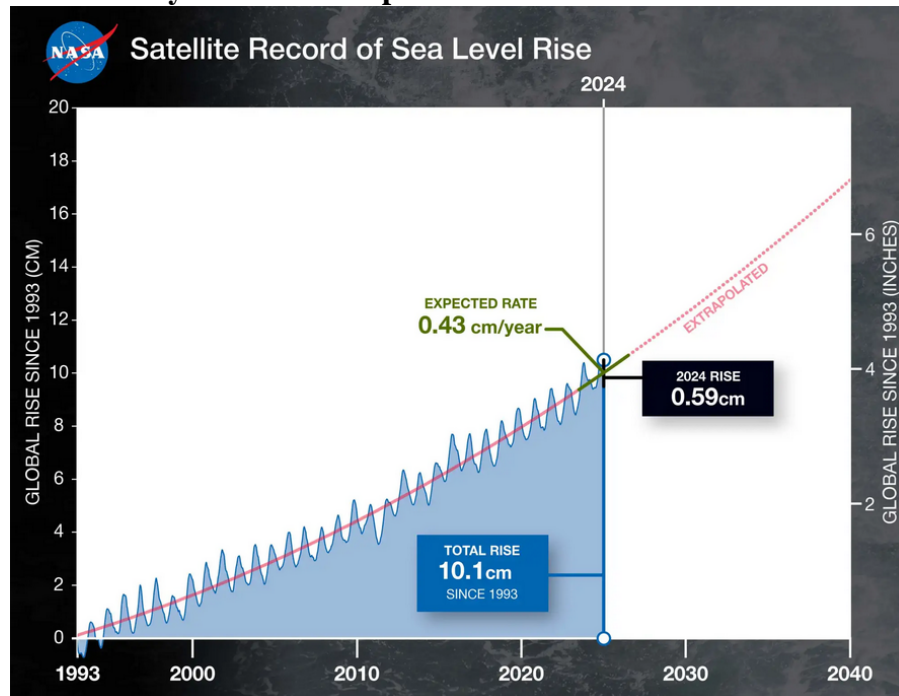
“Western Slope water leaders hope bipartisan support can thaw \$40 million in frozen federal money aimed at securing some of the Colorado River’s oldest water rights. The Colorado River District is spearheading an effort to purchase senior rights from Xcel Energy used at the Shoshone hydroelectric plant in Glenwood Canyon. The water allocated by the rights passes through the facility and back into the river, making them “nonconsumptive” rights, but by purchasing them for \$99 million Western Slope leaders hope to ensure that water can continue to flow downstream and avoid the possibility it could be rerouted to Front Range users. The effort to buy the rights raised more than \$50 million between the state of Colorado, the River District and more than two dozen entities on the Western Slope. ... ” [Read more from Colorado Public Radio.](#)

Forging law and Indigenous fire traditions

Professor Victoria Sutton (Lumbee), a law professor on the faculty of Texas Tech University, writes, “In January 2025, with the epic fire destruction of the Palisades home development area and surrounding regions of Los Angeles, poor resource management became very real and experienced. A shortage of water was to blame, many pointed out. Any diversion of water from Los Angeles could be said to have prevented putting out the fires including water diverted to the Bay to save the Delta smelt fish. Water diversions in the Northwest that go to salmon would otherwise go to agriculture (not Los Angeles) yet it is part of the greater watershed in the

northwest and still impacts all water usage. Everything is connected in the watershed ecosystem. But the real solution to the problem is not using precious water to put out fires, but to prevent the fire in the first place through better natural resource management. But we still must ask the question, whether water should be diverted that may be sent to the Bay in ecosystem restoration plans? Let's be honest — San Francisco just spent millions to argue to the U.S. Supreme Court that they should be allowed to have raw sewage overflow into the San Francisco Bay in violation of the Clean Water Act's section 301, violating water quality standards (WQS) for the Bay. ... ” [Read more from Native News Online.](#)

NASA analysis shows unexpected amount of sea level rise in 2024



“Global sea level rose faster than expected in 2024, mostly because of ocean water expanding as it warms, or thermal expansion. According to a NASA-led analysis, last year’s rate of rise was 0.23 inches (0.59 centimeters) per year, compared to the expected rate of 0.17 inches (0.43 centimeters) per year. “The rise we saw in 2024 was higher than we expected,” said Josh Willis, a sea level researcher at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. “Every year is a little bit different, but what’s clear is that the ocean continues to rise, and the rate of rise is getting faster and faster.” In recent years, about two-thirds of sea level rise was from the addition of water from land into the ocean by melting ice sheets and glaciers. About a third came from thermal expansion of seawater. But in 2024, those contributions flipped, with two-thirds of sea level rise coming from thermal expansion. “With 2024 as the warmest year on record, Earth’s expanding oceans are following suit, reaching their highest levels in three decades,” said Nadya Vinogradova Shiffer, head of physical oceanography programs and the Integrated Earth System Observatory at NASA Headquarters in Washington. ... ” [Read more from NASA.](#)

SEE ALSO: [Global sea level rose faster than expected in 2024, according to NASA analysis,](#) from ABC News

New hope for saving salmon: Weaving together Indigenous and Western sciences to restore California's winter-run chinook



Lower Falls, McCloud River. Photo by Suzanne Neubauer

“Jamie Ward grew up hearing the stories his people have told for countless generations on the slopes of Mount Shasta, a glacier-capped peak in Northern California. Many of these stories celebrate the bond between his tribe, the Winnemem Wintu, and Nur, also called winter-run chinook salmon. ... This promise has become almost impossible to keep. Government agencies charged with restoring California's at-risk salmon have long shut tribes out of decision making, even though decades of Western science have failed to reverse the fishes' precipitous decline. Winter-run chinook are among the most imperiled, largely due to habitat loss. The 1945 completion of Shasta Dam blocked the fish from their best spawning grounds, especially the cold mountain streams of the Winnemem Wintu's ancestral homelands along the McCloud River. “I didn't think they would ever return,” says Ward, a wildland management graduate student at California State University, Chico, who wants to restore waterways for salmon. But this winter, for the first time in 80 years, salmon that began their lives in the McCloud are likely coming back from the ocean to spawn. ... ” [Continue reading at Maven's Notebook](#).

Woman who helped shape rules for Colorado River water use asked to step down by Trump administration

“Federal funding freezes, government layoffs, and contract cancellations are bringing into question what the future of the Colorado River looks like as stakeholders approach a critical 2026 deadline for new water usage agreements. The Colorado River supplies water to 40 million people across two countries, seven states, 30 tribes, and more than five million acres of irrigated farmland. However, climate change and over usage of water has significantly altered the river's flow in recent decades. “Climate change has dramatically impacted the Colorado River, and we're seeing less flow in the river overall than was the case 20, 30, 50 years ago,” said Anne Castle, the former U.S. Representative and chair of the Upper Colorado River Commission. “We have to have a new set of operating rules that respond to the river that we have today.” Castle, who was appointed in 2022 by Joe Biden, was asked to resign seven days after President Trump's inauguration in January. ... ” [Read more from Channel 9](#).

Homebuilder group, AZ lawmakers sue to block rule requiring water sources for developments

“Homebuilders and Republican state lawmakers have filed a lawsuit seeking to void a rule requiring them to prove they have access to alternative water supplies in certain parts of the state. The Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona alleges the Department of Water Resources lacks the authority to determine if people have enough water for new developments. The rule they’re challenging requires developers to show they have access to 100-years of water. They’re also currently required to have even more water from an additional supply. Those rules apply to active water management areas in the Valley and Pinal County. ...” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

Southern Ute plans for \$19M upgrade to crumbling water system get caught in Trump funding freeze

“On Jan. 19, former President Joe Biden’s last full day in office, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe thought it would have at least \$19 million in federal funding to improve a deteriorating irrigation system in southwestern Colorado. Then the controversial national funding freeze by President Donald Trump shoved the tribe’s plans into limbo. The federally managed Pine River Indian Irrigation Project has a decadeslong backlog of maintenance work that could cost at least \$34.1 million to address, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe was awarded several federal grants to help improve the system before Trump announced the freeze on Jan. 20, his first day in office. “The tribe currently has four outstanding applications for federal funding which are being impacted by the freeze,” the tribe said in a written statement in late February. ...” [Read more from the Colorado Sun.](#)



Bookfair Reading

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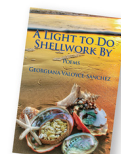
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NATIVE AMERICAN POETRY FROM CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
1:45-3:00 P.M. PT

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POETS READING
Emily Clarke
Denise Low
Stephen Meadows
Kim Shuck



President Hayes - Second State of the Union Address December 2, 1878

“The annual reports of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs present an elaborate account of the present condition of the Indian tribes and of that branch of the public service which ministers to their interests. While the conduct of the Indians generally has been orderly and their relations with their neighbors friendly and peaceable, two local disturbances have occurred, which were deplorable in their character, but remained, happily, confined to a comparatively small number of Indians. The discontent among the Bannocks, which led first to some acts of violence on the part of some members of the tribe and finally to the outbreak, appears to have been caused by an insufficiency of food on the reservation, and this insufficiency to have been owing to the inadequacy of the appropriations made by Congress to the wants of the Indians at a time when the Indians were prevented from supplying the deficiency by hunting. After an arduous pursuit by the troops of the United States, and several engagements, the hostile Indians were reduced to subjection, and the larger part of them surrendered themselves as prisoners. In this connection I desire to call attention to the recommendation made by the Secretary of the Interior, that a sufficient fund be placed at the disposal of the Executive, to be used, with proper accountability, at discretion, in sudden emergencies of the Indian service.

The other case of disturbance was that of a band of Northern Cheyennes, who suddenly left their reservation in the Indian Territory and marched rapidly through the States of Kansas and Nebraska in the direction of their old hunting grounds, committing murders and other crimes on their way. From documents accompanying the report of the Secretary of the Interior it appears that this disorderly band was as fully supplied with the necessaries of life as the 4,700 other Indians who remained quietly on the reservation, and that the disturbance was caused by men of a restless and mischievous disposition among the Indians themselves. Almost the whole of this band have surrendered to the military authorities; and it is a gratifying fact that when some of them had taken refuge in the camp of the Red Cloud Sioux, with whom they had been in friendly relations, the Sioux held them as prisoners and readily gave them up to the officers of the United States, thus giving new proof of the loyal spirit which, alarming rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, they have uniformly shown ever since the wishes they expressed at the council of September, 1877, had been complied with.

Both the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of War unite in the recommendation that provision be made by Congress for the organization of a corps of mounted "Indian auxiliaries," to be under the control of the Army and to be used for the purpose of keeping the Indians on their reservations and preventing or repressing disturbance on their part. I earnestly concur in this recommendation. It is believed that the organization of such a body of Indian cavalry, receiving a moderate pay from the Government, would considerably weaken the restless element among the Indians by withdrawing from it a number of young men and giving them congenial employment under the Government, it being a matter of experience that Indians in our service almost without exception are faithful in the performance of the duties assigned to them. Such an organization would materially aid the Army in the accomplishment of a task for which its numerical strength is sometimes found insufficient.

But while the employment of force for the prevention or repression of Indian troubles is of occasional necessity, and wise preparation should be made to that end, greater reliance must be placed on humane and civilizing agencies for the ultimate solution of what is called the Indian

problem. It may be very difficult and require much patient effort to curb the unruly spirit of the savage Indian to the restraints of civilized life, but experience shows that it is not impossible. Many of the tribes which are now quiet and orderly and self-supporting were once as savage as any that at present roam over the plains or in the mountains of the far West, and were then considered inaccessible to civilizing influences. It may be impossible to raise them fully up to the level of the white population of the United States; but we should not forget that they are the aborigines of the country, and called the soil their own on which our people have grown rich, powerful, and happy. We owe it to them as a moral duty to help them in attaining at least that degree of civilization which they may be able to reach. It is not only our duty, it is also our interest to do so. Indians who have become agriculturists or herdsmen, and feel an interest in property, will thenceforth cease to be a warlike and disturbing element. It is also a well-authenticated fact that Indians are apt to be peaceable and quiet when their children are at school, and I am gratified to know, from the expressions of Indians themselves and from many concurring reports, that there is a steadily increasing desire, even among Indians belonging to comparatively wild tribes, to have their children educated. I invite attention to the reports of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs touching the experiment recently inaugurated, in taking fifty Indian children, boys and girls, from different tribes, to the Hampton Normal Agricultural Institute in Virginia, where they are to receive an elementary English education and training in agriculture and other useful works, to be returned to their tribes, after the completed course, as interpreters, instructors, and examples. It is reported that the officer charged with the selection of those children might have had thousands of young Indians sent with him had it been possible to make provision for them. I agree with the Secretary of the Interior in saying that "the result of this interesting experiment, if favorable, may be destined to become an important factor in the advancement of civilization among the Indians.

The question whether a change in the control of the Indian service should be made was at the last session of Congress referred to a committee for inquiry and report. Without desiring to anticipate that report, I venture to express the hope that in the decision of so important a question the views expressed above may not be lost sight of, and that the decision, whatever it may be, will arrest further agitation of this subject, such agitation being apt to produce a disturbing effect upon the service, as well as on the Indians themselves."

"I invite the attention of Congress to the recommendations made by the Secretary of the Interior with regard to the preservation of the timber on the public lands of the United States. The protection of the public property is one of the first duties of the Government. The Department of the Interior should therefore be enabled by sufficient appropriations to enforce the laws in that respect. But this matter appears still more important as a question of public economy. The rapid destruction of our forests is an evil fraught with the gravest consequences, especially in the mountainous districts, where the rocky slopes, once denuded of their trees, will remain so forever. There the injury, once done, can not be repaired. I fully concur with the Secretary of the Interior in the opinion that for this reason legislation touching the public timber in the mountainous States and Territories of the West should be especially well considered, and that existing laws in which the destruction of the forests is not sufficiently guarded against should be speedily modified. A general law concerning this important subject appears to me to be a matter of urgent public necessity.

Not even our fallen at Arlington National Cemetery escape Trump's DEI hate

EJ Montini, Arizona Republic

Tue, March 18, 2025 at 2:15 AM PDT

It turns out that even the dead must suffer idiotic consequences from [Donald Trump's](#) derangement over any hint of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Worse still, the edicts coming from the White House are now dishonoring the heroes buried at [Arlington National Cemetery](#).

The military news website Task & Purpose reported that “the cemetery’s public website has [scrubbed dozens of pages on gravesites and educational materials](#) that include histories of prominent Black, Hispanic and female service members buried in the cemetery, along with educational material on dozens of Medal of Honor recipients and maps of prominent gravesites of Marine Corps veterans and other services.”

Dishonoring Black, Hispanic and female heroes over DEI

The article noted that links to three lists of Black, Hispanic and female service members buried at the cemetery were removed, as well as documents from an education section.

It added that a section talking about Black soldiers in World War II originally saying they had “served their country and fought for racial justice” was altered to say only that cemetery memorials “honor their dedication and service.”

Those who served and sacrificed deserve better.

Lesson plans available for teachers covering topics that included Women’s History and Medal of Honor recipients were removed.

An Army spokesperson at Arlington told [Task & Purpose](#), “The Army has taken immediate steps to comply with all executive orders related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) personnel, programs, and policies.

“The Army will continue to review its personnel, policies, and programs to ensure it remains in compliance with law and presidential orders. Social media and web pages were removed, archived, or changed to avoid noncompliance with executive orders.”

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Actually, Arlington is the most egalitarian place in America

I’m not sure there is anything at Arlington that could indicate any form of “noncompliance with executive orders” having to do with DEI.

The suggestion that such a thing is possible makes me sick. It should make us all sick.