



THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR FREEDOM: STORIES OF NC'S BLACK VETERANS



"The Ongoing Fight for Freedom: Stories of NC Black Veterans" is a one-man presentation & performance elevating Black freedom fighters and veterans with North Carolina connections – known & unknown, on and off the traditional battlefield – who have engaged in over 400 years of a struggle for freedom, liberty, and equality. Their sacrifices, resistance, and resilience have contributed to American democracy, even as they were denied the full rights of citizens. Through listening to their stories in this production, we can gain a deeper understanding of our nation's founding ideals, and harness the hope to continue the work, together, of making those ideals a reality for all.

The show was written and is performed by [Dr. Sonny Kelly, founder of Legacy Heirs Productions](#). The play's development was commissioned & funded by the NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources' [America 250 initiative](#) & produced by [Carolina K-12](#) at Carolina Public Humanities, UNC-Chapel Hill.

The show is approximately 70-minutes long. This presentation includes archival images, sounds & video depicting and referencing scenes of battle, war, the Jim Crow era, and racism. Suicide is briefly mentioned.

For study guides and more details, visit: <https://humanities.unc.edu/ncblackveterans/>

The Ongoing Fight for Freedom



Dr. Sonny Kelly Sonny Kelly is a scholar, performer, story teller, motivator, speaker, teacher, trainer and founder of Legacy Heirs Productions, Inc. Dr. Kelly earned his PhD in Communication at UNC Chapel Hill. He is also a graduate of Stanford University and St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX. Currently, his research is focused on seeking performance centered practices to name and address the issues that divide Americans. Dr. Kelly has served as a U.S. Air Force officer, a non-profit organization director, university admissions counselor, pharmaceutical salesman, award winning college communications instructor, and a church youth pastor. He teaches courses in Public Speaking and Intercultural/Interpersonal Communication at Fayetteville Technical Community College. Dr. Kelly has also acted professionally on stage and television for over 30 years. He is currently performing his original one-man shows and performative lectures: *The Talk*, *The Ongoing Fight for Freedom*, *Indivisible*, and *HAUNTED* - that grapple with the talks that Americans must begin to have with each other in order to thrive in a divided America and transcend toward a more unified nation. Dr. Kelly's work mobilizes theater, storytelling, performance-centered pedagogy, ethnography, and participatory action research toward hope, unity, accountability, equity, and inclusion. His passion for empowering others is unmistakable! Learn more at www.legacyheirsproductions.com.

Legacy Heirs Productions Inc has provided speakers, trainers, and performers who have conducted performances, lectures, and workshops for hundreds of satisfied clients like: **GlaxoSmithKline, QIAGEN, The Association of Community Health Workers, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, HMA Community Strategies, RTI, Sentara Health, The USO, The Junior League, Cumberland County Arts Council, Duke University, Syracuse University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, Fayetteville State University, Georgia Tech University, St. Andrews University, Cape Fear Community College, Carteret Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Sandhills Community College, Durham Technical Community College, The Levin Jewish Community Center as well as numerous churches, community organizations, and K-12 schools across the nation.**

What The Ongoing Fight for Freedom offers audiences:

- Depth of inquiry, that links un(der)told history, personal narratives, and performance ethnography with our contemporary questions on race, identity, and patriotism in the U.S.
- Combines interactive theater with vibrant storytelling and exquisite character acting for an overwhelmingly engaging experience.
- Profound emotional and physical resonance as a live performance piece, based in rigorous research, as well as critical ethnography and autoethnography.
- Expands our notions of equity, justice, The American Dream and unity through embodied memory, interpersonal connection, and collective reflection.
- Reverent exploration of U.S. history, race relations, and veterans affairs.
- A candid community conversation that calls all participants in.

RIDER

- 1 strong wooden chair
- 1 small table (3 - 4 ft tall, and 3 - 4 ft squared)
- 1 lectern or music stand
- 1 large projector screen. Ideally located at least 6ft above center stage; or on stage (if rear projected)
- 1 projector that can project a PowerPoint slideshow with sound from a laptop or PC. Dr. Kelly will bring his own laptop, but he can bring the PowerPoint slideshow on a flash drive. His technical director will need to actively run the PowerPoint show from that laptop or PC.
- Audio system that allows for sound cues to be projected in the performance area (all sound files are embedded in the PowerPoint presentation)
- 1 hands-free microphone (preferably a headset microphone, but a lapel-mounted lavalier microphone will work if a headset is not available)

SPACE

Minimum of 10ft X 6ft playing space, preferably on an elevated stage.

TIMING

Run time: 70 minutes without Q & A. (Can be adjusted according to needs.)

COST

- \$5,000 + travel and lodging costs for one full performance, followed by an optional additional hour of Discussion and Q & A.
- \$2,500 + travel and lodging costs for excerpts of the performance and the facilitation of interactive community discussions and workshops for up to two hours. (\$500 per additional hour)
- \$1,500 for virtual engagement with excerpts of the performance and discussion for up to two hours.

*Prices for K-12 schools and non-profit organizations are negotiable

*Prices for additional performances in the same area during the same visit are negotiable

REFERENCES:

- Stephen Valentine, Director of Veterans Law Clinic, North Carolina Central Univ.
Phone (919)530-6946; svalent4@nccu.edu
- Christie Hinson Norris, Director, Carolina K-12
Phone: (919)843-9387; cnorris@unc.edu
- Joseph Megel, Professor, UNC Chapel Hill Communication Department,
Phone: (919)843-7067; E-mail: megel@email.unc.edu
- Dr. Lloyd Kramer, Director of Carolina Public Humanities
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Book The Ongoing Fight for Freedom!

Presentations are modular and highly flexible. This performance can be produced on main stages and in smaller venues. To book a performance visit www.legacyheirsproductions.com and select "Contact Us."