



Dear DACOR Members,

Our organization of foreign affairs professionals does not usually comment on social and political issues in our country, but in light of the events currently taking place, I believe that it is important that we make it clear where we stand. I know that DACOR's leaders, staff and members are appalled by the brutal injustices inflicted on George Floyd and so many other fellow citizens who are Black. We fully support the constitutionally protected, peaceful, multi-cultural and multi-generational protests calling for justice in cities across the country. The sight of people of so many different races and backgrounds finding a common voice demanding change is inspiring. While as an organization our focus is on foreign affairs, we and our nation cannot get our foreign policy house in order unless we simultaneously get our domestic house in order.

The foreign affairs professionals who make up our membership are especially aware of the history and promise of the United States as well as of the instances in which we have fallen short of our ideals. Many spent their careers promoting democratic ideals and human rights around the world, holding up our nation as an example to be emulated. It is painful to witness the violation of our ideals in our own country and to see and hear the suffering of our fellow citizens, as conveyed in the plaintive cries of George Floyd.

DACOR is committed to being an inclusive and diverse organization. We have made strides in this direction over the years but still have work to do. Our Black leaders, members and staff are not always made to feel fully welcome in the organization. We must do better to deepen a culture of inclusiveness where all feel equally appreciated.

As DACOR moves toward the bicentennial celebration of our home, the Bacon House, we are undertaking research projects that will highlight the contributions of enslaved people in the building and staffing of the house in its early years. In this small way, we hope to help our membership to both recognize and work toward healing the racial and social divisions that have plagued our nation for too long.

Once the pandemic recedes to the point where we can restart activities in our beloved House, I would encourage members to maintain a special awareness of how our interactions with fellow

members and guests can contribute to fostering a spirit of inclusion and empathy with those who have borne the brunt of discrimination and injustice.

During this challenging time for our nation, we, as foreign affairs professionals with all of our education, knowledge, and experience should take responsibility for modeling inclusive behavior that will have a positive impact and help in healing our nation.

With best wishes for staying safe and healthy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Denig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and the last name "Denig" clearly legible.

Paul Denig  
*President*