


Thursday, January 15th 6:00–8:00 p.m.

COOR HALL, Room 184

Fighting for Freedom: The Little-Known Story of Muslims and the Civil War

Episode 3 | 22m 24s | 

Malika Bilal tells the story of an immigrant with a 200-page pension file detailing his experiences.

Fighting for Freedom: The Little-Known Story of Muslims and the Civil War

Film Screening + Panel Discussion

Join us for a **special film screening** and **panel discussion** exploring the little-known stories of **Muslims in the American Civil War**. In *Fighting for Freedom*, Malika Bilal (Senior Presenter, Al Jazeera English) uncovers the remarkable history of Muhammad Kahn—an **Afghan immigrant who enlisted in the Union Army in 1861** and left behind a 200-page pension file detailing his life and service.

The film also highlights the lives of other Muslim figures connected to the conflict, including Nicholas Said, an African immigrant who fought in the United States Colored Troops, and a Tunisian statesman whose 1864 letter urging the end of slavery reached Senator Charles Sumner and shaped abolitionist debates in Congress.

Following the screening, a panel of scholars and community leaders will discuss the film's key themes, the broader history of Muslims in America, and why these stories matter today. **Food will be provided.**

Panelists:

- **Wanda Wright**, Director, Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement; Assistant Teaching Professor, CISA - School of Applied Sciences and Arts, ASU
- **Dr. John Marc Sianghio**, Assistant Director and Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, ASU

Moderator:

- **Chad Haines**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Co-Director Center of Muslim Experience in the US, ASU

*Hosted as part of our January observance of **Muslim American Heritage Month**, celebrating the long and rich history of Muslims in the United States.*

Please RSVP by January 9th 2026

