

**Republican Perspective**  
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by Ed Manning

**THE CHARLOTTESVILLE SLANDER**

*“We choose truth over facts.” ex-Vice President, Joe Biden*

It's been two years since a band of white nationalists gathered in Charlottesville, VA to protest the removing the statue of General Robert E. Lee. On August 11-12, 2017 members of alt-right groups descended upon the town to partake in a “Unite the Right” rally. Marching through the streets with tiki torches and chanting “you can't replace us” and “white lives matter” led to violence. Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old woman was killed when a car slammed into a crowd of counter-protesters. Two state troopers died in a helicopter crash while monitoring the demonstration.

On August 12 President Trump said: "We condemn in the strongest most possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides. On many sides." He tweeted: “We ALL must be united & condemn all that hate stands for. There is no place for this kind of violence in America. Lets come together as one!”

Democrat and Republican politicians were quick to voice their displeasure at the President's reference to hatred “on many sides.” The main-stream-media (MSM) reported that by not condemning white supremacists outright, Trump was condoning this bigotry. The *New York Times* headline: “Trump Gives White Supremacists Unequivocal Boost.” MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace reported that Trump had “given safe harbor to Nazis, to white supremacists.”

For two years the MSM continues their opinion that Trump condones alt-right groups and white supremacists. This narrative will likely be part of the Democrat 2020 presidential campaign. He has been called a racist numerous times by both Democrat presidential candidates and CNN.

Once upon a time, journalists and the MSM assisted the public in separating facts from fiction. Politicians of all stripes tend to stretch the truth. It seems that today's journalists and the MSM largely provide opinions. This view was shared with me during a recent cruise. Fellow travelers from Australia and New Zealand observed that the US media didn't provide “news” but “opinions.”

A case in point is the reporting on Trump's comments about the white supremacist march at Charlottesville. On August 15, 2017, the President gave a press conference at Trump Tower.

The MSM reported that Trump described neo-Nazis as “very fine people.” The President, however, was referring to a group that gathered to protest the removal of Lee's statue. Here are his words:

“And you have some very bad people in that group. But you also had some very fine people on both sides. You had people in that group that were there to protest the taking down of, to them, a very, very important statue and the renaming of a park from Robert E. Lee to another name.”

“And you had people, and I’m not talking about the neo-Nazis and the white nationalists, because they should be condemned totally. But you had many people in that group other than neo-Nazis and white nationalists. OK? And the press has treated them absolutely unfairly.”

On August 16, the *New York Times* supported Trump’s statement that there were protesters other than neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Per the article: “Good people can go to Charlottesville, said Michelle Piercy, a night shift worker at a Wichita, Kan., retirement home, who drove all night with a conservative group that opposed the planned removal of a statue of the Confederate general Robert E. Lee.”

On August 14 Trump stated:

“As I said on Saturday, we condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence. It has no place in America.”

“Racism is evil. And those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans.”

At Trump’s direction, the Department of Justice opened a civil rights investigation into the violence at Charlottesville. The avowed white supremacist who killed Ms. Heyer and wounded 20 others was found guilty of a hate crime. He was sentenced to life in prison. Three members of the California-based militant white supremacist organization “Rise Above Movement,” were sentenced to prison last month. Their sentences ranged from 37 to 33 months for kicking, choking and punching multiple people in Charlottesville.

A lack of confidence in the MSM showed in a Monmouth University 2018 poll. It found that more than 3-in-4 Americans believe that traditional major TV and newspaper media outlets report “fake news,” including 31% who believe this happens regularly and 46% who say it happens occasionally. It should be MSM’s wakeup call.