Revolt: The Ghosts of Justice

B Alan Bourgeois · Opening excerpt · 1 of 2

It had started as a whisper—a slow, methodical erosion of rights. At first, it was easy to dismiss: bureaucratic changes buried in legislative documents, executive orders signed behind closed doors.

Then came Executive Order 14168, which stripped gender identity from federal recognition. The trans military ban was reinstated. Passports were altered to erase non-binary markers. LGBTQIA+ resources vanished overnight from government websites.

Hospitals lost funding if they provided gender-affirming care. Embassies were forced to remove Pride flags, their walls scrubbed of LGBTQIA+ representation.

A creeping dread settled over the queer community like a storm forming on the horizon. Everyone knew something was coming, but no one knew just how far it would go.

Then came the final insult: President Lawrence Hawthorne, in an unprecedented move, issued an executive order banning the 2025 World Pride event in Washington, D.C.—set to take place on June 7 and 8.

He called it an "abomination on the steps of our nation's capital", framing it as a matter of "national morality" and "family values." The permit was revoked. Federal police were authorized to arrest anyone attempting to organize it. The National Guard was placed on standby to prevent “unlawful gatherings.”

Reading sample — continued

It was the final straw.

Across the country, LGBTQIA+ leaders, activists, and allies mobilized. What had begun as protests in New York, San Francisco, and Chicago spread to every major city. The streets flooded with millions of marchers, draped in Pride colors, refusing to be erased. They marched on state capitols, staged sit-ins at government buildings, boycotted businesses supporting the administration.

But behind the scenes, something darker was brewing.

The Silent Warriors

Buried beneath the anger and exhaustion of the community, a hidden faction of the forgotten and betrayed had been watching. Waiting.

They were not just veterans. They were warriors.

Some had served in the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, the jungles of South America—fighting for a country that had cast them aside. They had been decorated soldiers, elite operatives, intelligence specialists—before their own government labeled them unworthy.

Some had been forced out under "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell." Others had endured years of silence, hiding who they were just to serve a nation that saw them as disposable.

Many had returned home only to find themselves erased again—denied their rights, their honor, their place in history.