

For Release: Thursday, December 10, 2015

South Carolina: Happy Independence Day!

To commemorate December 14, 1782, monument group asks state leaders, 46 counties and 293 municipalities to honor 121 forgotten African American Patriots

Washington, DC (December 10, 2015) -- For the past eight years, National Mall Liberty Fund DC has shared the names and hometowns of thousands of African American Revolutionary War veterans and patriots with 426 cities, towns and counties in five states, from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

On Monday (December 14), according to Maurice A. Barboza, founder, "we're asking every jurisdiction in South Carolina to show their Southern Pride in these patriots who mostly cannot be associated at this time with a community. So, in a way they are in need of a deserving embrace from the entire state." The group was pleased that aides to Senator Tim Scott met to discuss the 121 forgotten patriots of South Carolina two weeks ago.

Twelve known patriots can be associated with a county or a congressional district. Four patriots are from Orangeburg, three from Richland and one apiece from Spartanburg, Union (formerly Union District), Beaufort (formerly Granville County) Christ Church Parish and Barnwell (formerly Barnwell District).

Patriots once lived in the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th congressional districts. Reps. Jim Clyburn (SC 6th) and Joe Wilson (SC 2nd) share seven patriots. Both represent one additional patriot from Beaufort and Barnwell counties, respectively. Rep. Mick Mulvaney (SC 5th) represents 15 who were at the decisive Battle of Cowpens according to the National Park Service. Rep. Trey Gowdy (SC 4th) represents patriot and poll tax protester Spencer Bolton who served under Gen. Francis Marion. From 1959 to 1961, patriot Oscar "Buddy" Marion was portrayed by actor Jordan Whitfield in the Walt Disney miniseries, "The Swamp Fox."

Two pieces of bipartisan U.S. legislation (2012 and 2014) empower Liberty Fund DC to create a memorial in Washington's Monumental Core to as many as 10,000 combatants and far more who performed patriotic acts that brought about the United States. Tens of thousands ran away from tyranny to freedom, including up to 25,000 South Carolinians.

"In a sense, Barboza said, South Carolina Independence Day is their day too. Those who sided with either the Americans or the British did so for reasons far different and far more complicated than others." John Biddie, who had served three years trying to expel the British, became a "refugee" when the state was overrun. However, he said he "never took protection," which the British promised. Thousands of others, hotly pursued by rebel masters, had no other alternative. December 14th meant evasion leading to a future elsewhere but nowhere in South Carolina.

Liberty Fund DC has [posted documents](#) to facilitate the commemoration: A fact sheet, a gubernatorial proclamation, a legislative joint resolution and resolutions for counties and municipalities. "We are urging action between the 235th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 2016, and the end of February, African American History Month," Barboza said. Over 30 years ago, President Reagan signed Public Law 98-245 that encourages communities "to issue proclamations" that enrich state, local and national history. Two former South Carolina congressmen cosponsored the legislation, Reps. Carroll Campbell (SC 4th) and Rep. Robert Tallon (SC 6th)

The group also is seeking the urgent support needed to persuade the U.S. Senate to approve H.R. 1949, the National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act. Intended to streamline the memorial design and positioning, the bill was approved unanimously by the U.S. House of Representatives in September. The Senate Natural Resources Committee has taken no action so far.

Liberty Fund DC is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit to which tax deductible contributions may be made at www.libertyfunddc.com. The group's achievements are exemplary; it has spent less than \$4,000 since 2005 on activities others have not fully achieved with millions. "The project," Barboza said, "is anchored in the dedication of the design team and scores of volunteers and members of Congress and staff."

###