

Draft Resolution for Consideration by the South Carolina General Assembly

Honoring South Carolina's African American Revolutionary War Patriots

Goal: Approval by the end of February 2016, African American History Month

BY:

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 enslaved and free persons served as soldiers, marines and patriots in the Revolutionary War in addition to tens of thousands of men, women and children who provided civilian assistance, ran away from slavery (including an estimated 25,000 in South Carolina alone), and petitioned courts and legislatures for freedom; and

WHEREAS, at least 121 African Americans of South Carolina served in the Revolutionary War on the American side, including Adam, African American Man (8 persons), Agrippa, Antigua, Bacchus, Negro Bacchus, John Biddie, Negro Billy, Negro Boatswain, Bob, Spencer Bolton, Stephen Bond, Bram, Gasper Brownsguard, John Busby, Cain, Jim Capers, Isham/Isom Carter, Charles, Negro Charles, John Chavers, Lazarus Chavis, John Chavis, Clomwell, Edward Coleman, George Cooper, Pompey, Cooper, Cupid, Dublin, John Eady, Exeter, John Featherston, Simon Fralix, Michal Franch, Jacob Francis, Francis, George Free, Pompey Gazer, George, Dublin Gillon, Reeps Going, Primus Griffen, Gideon Griffin, Morgan Griffin, Edward Harris, Harry, Hector, Tower Hill, Horace, Issac, Jack, Jack, Jacob, January, Allen Jeffers, Barry Jeffers, Jemey, Jemmy, Negro Jemy, Joe, Joseph, Julius, Kneller, Moses Knight, Landy, Lewis, Oscar "Buddy" Marion, Hector McKenzie, Ned, Nelson, Neptune, Patty, Tom Peas, George Perkins, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter, Peter, Dick Pickens/Old, Plymouth, Polly, Pompey, Pompey, Anthony Porcy, Jack Primas, Primus, Shadrack Reed, Willis Reed, Robin, Cornelius Rouse, Sam, Old Sandy, Scaramouch, Abraham Scot, Moses Sharper, Shrewsberry, Stepney, Titus, Toby, Tom, Tom, Tom, Toney, Samuel Waldron, Negro Wexford, Will, and York.

WHEREAS, twelve African American soldiers and patriots are known to have ties to the counties of Spartanburg, Union, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Richland and Beaufort and the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, there could be thousands of descendants living in South Carolina and elsewhere in the US, including the descendants of Brand Pendarvis of whom at least one at some time became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, from 1959 to 1961, Oscar "Buddy" Marion, an African American patriot, was portrayed by actor Jordan Whitfield in the popular Walt Disney miniseries, "The Swamp Fox."

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has identified at least 15 African American patriots who were at the crucial Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781; and.

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2015, at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Orion, Pike County, Alabama, the Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution honored Alabama transplant and patriot Jim Capers, 1742–1853, a drummer of the 4th South Carolina Regiment, with a Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2013, National Mall Liberty Fund DC was authorized by Public Law 112-239 to construct with private funds \ a National Liberty Memorial in Washington, DC to enslaved and free persons, including those of South Carolina, who contributed to Independence and the struggle for liberty; and

WHEREAS, National Mall Liberty Fund DC is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to which tax exempt donations may be made at <http://libertyfunddc.com/501c3-tax-exempt-organization>; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2014, Public Law 113-176 declared the history to be memorialized of “preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation” and eligible for a location in the Monumental Core of the Nation's Capital; and

WHEREAS, the efforts to build the memorial have generated interest in genealogical discoveries and historical research resulting in the publication of hundreds of books reaffirming the significant contributions made by African-Americans in the post colonial period; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 98-245, signed by President Ronald W. Reagan on March 27, 1984, urged states and communities to honor African American contributions to the Revolutionary War and propelled the publication of their names in 2008 in *Forgotten Patriots, African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE [House/Senate] joins the National Mall Liberty Fund, D.C., (www.libertyfunddc.com) in urging citizens and private concerns inside and outside of South Carolina to support the design, construction and dedication of the National Liberty Memorial and to spread knowledge of the history to the state’s institutions and citizens while promoting it as a tourism resource and emblem of understanding and unity throughout the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **[House/Senate]** encourages volunteers to discover the names of still-unknown African American Revolutionary War soldiers, sailors and patriots, enlarge the body of knowledge about their lives and forward the information to National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. for inclusion in a database that will celebrate the trail blazers of South Carolina together with those of hundreds of proud American communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **[House/Senate]** urges the South Carolina Delegation to the United States Congress to work for the passage in the U.S. Senate of H.R. 1949, the National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act, which was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously on September 16, 2015, to facilitate the site and design process for the National Liberty Memorial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of **[House/Senate]** forward certified copies of this Resolution to the South Carolina Delegation to the United States Congress, the Governor of South Carolina, the Speaker and President Pro Tempore of the General Assembly and the local superintendent of schools, librarian and historical society.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED, WAS ADOPTED