

Draft Resolution for Consideration by the Governor of South Carolina

Honoring South Carolina's African American Revolutionary War Patriots

Goal: Signed on January 17, 2016, 235th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 enslaved and free persons seeking freedom and aspiring to citizenship served as soldiers, sailors, marines and spies in the Revolutionary War while countless others performed selfless patriotic acts; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of the times, tens of thousands of men, women and children (estimated at 25,000 in South Carolina) fled enslavement, sued masters and petitioned courts and legislatures for freedom; and

WHEREAS, at least 121 African Americans served on the American side in the Revolutionary War from 12 counties and five (5) Congressional Districts in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2015, Washington-based National Mall Liberty Fund DC sent the names of South Carolina's patriots to 46 counties and 293 municipalities with a request that they approve resolutions honoring this state and local history; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 and 2014, the U.S. Congress approved Public Laws 112-239 and 113-176 to authorize Liberty Fund DC to establish a citizen-funded National Liberty Memorial in the Monumental Core of the nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, forgotten African Americans of the Revolutionary War era established churches, institutions, self-help groups and expectations that became the modern Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina joins Liberty Fund DC, the sponsors of the National Liberty Memorial Act and supporters to encourage municipalities to adopt resolutions honoring the history and voicing support for the National Liberty Memorial;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I Nikki Haley, Governor of the State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 17-23, 2016, as "**FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS WEEK**" in South Carolina and urge citizens to study, preserve and promote the history as a tourism resource and unifying national legacy.