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Subject: SOUTH CAROLINA'S BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

For Immediate Release

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[South Carolina Patriot Information](#)

South Carolina's Black History Matters

Congressional Black Caucus chair tells U.S. House that memorial honoring state's first African American veterans of 1776 is of "great importance" to Caucus

Washington, DC (February 11, 2016) -- When Republican and Democratic leaders came together to pass legislation in September to facilitate the design and site selection of a national memorial to thousands of African American Revolutionary War veterans, Congressional Black Caucus Chair G.K. Butterfield (NC 1st) said, "Seeing this important and culturally significant memorial to fruition is of great importance to me. It is of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus."

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. According to founder Maurice A. Barboza, "we're asking South Carolina's leaders and 46 counties and 293 municipalities to honor the state's first veterans, thousands of African American patriots of the Revolutionary War, including at least 121 soldiers.

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. 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). 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.

Twelve known South Carolina 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."

"Those who sided with either the Americans or the British," Barboza said, "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.

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