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REMARKS FOR

REBURIAL OF GENERAL WILLIAM MOULTRIE

SOLDIER . . . PATRIOT . . . STATESMAN

BY

THE HONORABLE JAMES B. EDWARDS

TODAY, JUNE 28, IS INDEED AN HISTORIC DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA. IT WAS ON THIS DAY 202 YEARS AGO THAT THE GREAT MILITARY HERO AND STATESMAN, THAT WE ARE REMEMBERING HERE TODAY, COMMANDED A SMALL AMERICAN GARRISON AND WITHSTOOD BRITISH FORCES AT SULLIVAN'S ISLAND. AND IT WAS EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO TODAY THAT GENERAL MOULTRIE'S RESTING PLACE WAS DISCOVERED.

UNTIL LAST SUMMER, THE RESTING PLACE OF GENERAL MOULTRIE HAD BEEN IN QUESTION, AS AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF HIS FUNERAL HAD NEVER BEEN FOUND. THE SEARCH FOR THE GENERAL'S REMAINS BEGAN IN 1850 AND WAS CONTINUED BY THE RIGHT REVEREND WILLIAM ALEXANDER GUERRY IN 1908 AND 1909.

IT WAS THE CLUES LEFT BY REVEREND GUERRY'S EXCAVATIONS IN HIS LAST ATTEMPT TO FIND THE GENERAL'S REMAINS THAT LED THE WAY TO THEIR EVENTUAL RECOVERY.

THE REMAINS WERE FINALLY DISCOVERED BECAUSE OF THE LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY REVEREND GUERRY'S SON, REVEREND CANON EDWARD BRAILSFORD GUERRY, AND THE FATHER-SON TEAM OF JULIAN AND VIC BRANDT. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, THAT TWENTIETH CENTURY SOUTH CAROLINIANS CAN GIVE AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PATRIOT HIS JUST DUE.

WE SALUTE THE EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF BOB STEPHENSON AND STANLEY SOUTH OF THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THEIR FAMILIES AND STAFF, AS THE QUESTION OF WHERE THE GENERAL WAS BURIED HAS FINALLY BEEN ANSWERED.

SOUTH CAROLINA PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, AND WILLIAM MOULTRIE LIKEWISE PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN THIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. GENERAL MOULTRIE'S SERVICE IN BOTH THE CHEROKEE WAR AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

AND HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AS GOVERNOR MADE THE GENERAL ONE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S "FAVORITE SONS."

EVERY TIME WE SEE THE BLUE AND WHITE FURLS OF THE STATE FLAG WAVING IN THE BREEZE, WE CAN REMEMBER GENERAL MOULTRIE AS THE DESIGNER OF THE ORIGINAL FLAG OF THE PALMETTO STATE.

EVERY TIME WE SEE THE STATE SEAL, WE ARE SEEING TRIBUTE PAID TO THE MAN WHO WAS IN COMMAND AT SULLIVAN'S ISLAND AS DEPICTED BY THE ALMS ON OUR STATE SEAL.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE EVER MINDFUL OF THE SACRIFICES AND HARDSHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN BORNE BY THOSE BEFORE OUR TIME TO ALLOW US THE PRECIOUS FREEDOMS WE ENJOY TODAY. ANY PERSON WHO VALUES HIS FREEDOMS AND IS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM IS A TRUE PATRIOT. WILLIAM

MOULTRIE WAS SUCH A MAN AND MORE. HE STATED MORE ELOQUENTLY
THAN I EVER COULD WHEN HE SAID IN HIS MEMOIRS:

Gen. Montague urged him to come to Jamaica

"YOU SAY, BY QUITTING THIS COUNTRY FOR A SHORT TIME I
MIGHT AVOID DISAGREEABLE CONVERSATIONS, AND MIGHT
RETURN AT MY OWN LEISURE AND TAKE POSSESSION OF MY
ESTATES FOR MYSELF AND FAMILY: BUT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN
TO TELL ME HOW I AM TO GET RID OF THE FEELINGS OF AN
INJURED HONEST HEART, AND WHERE TO HIDE MYSELF FROM
MYSELF: COULD I BE GUILTY OF SO MUCH BASENESS I SHOULD
HATE MYSELF AND SHUN MANKIND. THIS WOULD BE A FATAL
EXCHANGE FROM MY PRESENT SITUATION, WITH AN EASY AND
APPROVED CONSCIENCE OF HAVING DONE MY DUTY, AND CON-
DUCTED MYSELF AS A MAN OF HONOR."

ALTHOUGH THE MAN IS GONE, MAY HIS WORDS FOREVER LIVE IN
THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW.