

Memorial To Black Revolutionary War Patriots Closer To A Reality

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abolitionist Ailstock, Cato Cuff, Phraim Hearn and Pomp Sherburne fought for American independence in the Revolutionary War, but you won't read about them in history books.

They are among 5,000 black patriots, generally ignored by historians and forgotten over the years, who fought — and in some cases died — for the nation's freedom.

But America's most anonymous war heroes may soon be remembered, side-by-side with Lincoln and Washington.

Interior Secretary Donald P. Hodel this week approved plans that would allow a national memorial to the black patriots in Constitution Gardens between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

The memorial project, which began two years ago and remains at least several years away as it weaves through Washington's bureaucratic web, is not a memorial to blacks but a monument to freedom, says the project's founding father.

"This memorial really isn't a memorial to an individual ... or a group of individuals," said Maurice A. Barboza, a 42-year-old black attorney. "It's a memorial to a concept, the concept of the struggle for freedom, and that's a universal concept, something which I think any American can identify with ... because it really defines us as a nationality and a people."

Barboza said two centuries of ignoring blacks' role in the American Revolution continues to hurt race relations, and he thinks the memorial can help heal the wounds.

"It has an effect on the way we look at each other," he said. "If we think blacks made no contribution to the country, if we

think they were all slaves at the time of the Revolution ... and blacks didn't have anything to do with the Civil War yet white people were dying in order to free blacks, it creates a tremendous pressure on young people to develop prejudices."

Barboza's mission has led him to sell his Virginia home, quit his job as a lobbyist for the American Bar Association and devote his time solely to the memorial.

It started with a little boy looking at a faded photograph at his grandmother's house.

Barboza remembers staring up at the yellowed photograph of his great-great-grandfather, a soldier in the Civil War, and wondering about the man and his era.

Years later, after graduating from Rutgers Law School and working as a lobbyist in the Health, Education and Welfare Department in the Carter administration, Barboza started a private project to find his roots.

Spending hours sifting through documents at the National Archives, Barboza traced his lineage back to colonial times, discovering that a distant relative served in the Revolutionary War.

Proud of his heritage, Barboza urged his aunt, Lena Santos Ferguson, to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. That resulted in a four-year fight that drew national attention, ending with the DAR finally admitting her.

Spurred by that event, Barboza went to Congress in 1983 where he found a champion for his cause in a white Republican woman from Connecticut, Rep. Nancy L. Johnson, who represented Plainville, Conn., the town where the Barboza family grew up.

"Frankly, I, as a graduate in history from one of the best in-

stitutions in the nation, was never really conscious of the role blacks played in the American Revolution," Mrs. Johnson said in an interview.

"Certainly our kids are not conscious, and there isn't a high school in America that shouldn't be conscious of this. Unless we correct the record, not just in textbooks but in the psyche of the nation, to recognize that our nation was actually founded in its freedom and independence by blacks as well as whites, we will never overcome the arrogance of prejudice."

Despite opposition from policymakers worried about overcrowding Washington with monuments and memorials, Mrs. Johnson and Sen. Al Gore, D-Tenn., guided it through Congress. President Reagan signed it last year.

But Barboza wants the memorial in Constitution Gardens, in a grassy area in view of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and Constitution Hall, in the midst of Washington's prime tourist path, and that requires additional layers of bureaucratic approvals and legislative action.

The surrounding sites would have special meaning in relation to the black patriots memorial, Barboza said.

The Lincoln Memorial would remind viewers that there were free blacks who fought in the Revolution a century before the Emancipation Proclamation, and others who fought in exchange for their freedom; the Washington Monument would remind of George Washington's original refusal to accept black soldiers; and nearby DAR Constitution Hall would recall Ferguson's recent struggle.

"It would make the most powerful statement," Barboza said.



Dr. Phail Wynn, left, president of Durham Technical Community College, and Dr. Tyrone R. Richmond, chancellor of North Carolina Central University, took leading roles in hosting the Durham conference of the 100-member North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities. Both were on the program for the association's first session, at which North Carolina Lt. Governor Robert Jordan III, right, was the principal speaker. Also serving as host institutions were Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of North Carolina General Administration.



Four members of the Association of Black American Ambassadors helped North Carolina Central University freshman Kimberly Shanks, right, with a class debate project during their meeting at NCCU. Seated with Miss Shanks, from left, are Ambassador Irving Hicks, currently Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for personnel; Ambassador Walter Carrington, now head of the Center for International Studies at Howard University; Ambassador Elliott P. Skinner, now Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University; and Ambassador Horace G. Dawson, now Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights of the United States Information Agency.

Father Decries Silence On MOVE

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bernardino Ward has kept his silence for more than two years over what happened to his 13-year-old son when police dropped a bomb on the headquarters of the radical group MOVE.

But he can suppress his anger and anguish no longer.

"Not in the history of any city that I know has anyone ever dropped a bomb on a house unless it was actually like World War II," said Ward.

On May 13, 1985, Ward's son, the former Birdie Africa, lost his mother and the only family he knew and was permanently scarred in the confrontation between MOVE and police. Eleven MOVE members, including Ward's ex-wife, were killed in a fiery blaze that also destroyed 61 neighboring homes.

"You're talking about the calculated killing of 11 people, five of them children, the attempted murder of one more, my son," said Ward.

Ward, 33, quit his job as a financial planner to take custody of his son, now known as Michael Ward, and to spend full time on the boy's rehabilitation.

Michael, now 15, seems stable and happy in his new environment, said Ward. But he still must undergo operations on the burn wounds left from the siege and has yet to come to terms with the confrontation.

Ward has tended to his son's wounds and watched his struggle. "I realized I could no longer be quiet," he said.

He is calling on 17 religious leaders and politicians ranging from presidential candidate the Rev. Jesse Jackson to Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to press a grand jury investigating the incident to complete its work.

Ward sent letters to the leaders

asking them to "sit with me in an effort to bring about a resolution, if there can be one, of the devastation of May 13, and the future of my family and son."

The grand jury, impaneled in May 1986 for a year and a half, recently received a six-month extension to next May to report on its findings. The proceeding is in its final stages and a report could be issued by the end of the year, said Terry Williamson, a spokesman for the District Attorney's office.

But the delay has frustrated Ward.

"Somebody should be responsible; somebody should pay for that," he said. "Justice should be served, not clouded, not covered, not glossed over."

The Wards have a lawsuit pending in U.S. District Court against the city for alleged damages Michael suffered during the fire.

But he says "the civil courts cannot effectively deal with the larger moral implications of the entire tragedy. 'How innocent women and children could have been sacrificed and made to pay with their lives for what may have been the sins of a few adults over whom they had absolutely no control.'"

Ward's ex-wife, Rhonda Cheryle Harris, joined MOVE in 1971 and took the name Rhonda Africa. She took Michael, the couple's only child into the group as an infant and for years Ward tried to win custody of his son.

Philadelphians must listen to the voice of Ward and his son to insure that the tragedy is never forgotten or repeated, said Rev. Paul Washington, one of the letter recipients.

"The pain cannot be abated with him because he lives with a young child who has not only suf-

fered physically but will continue to suffer emotionally for May 13," said Washington, a member of the commission appointed by Mayor W. Wilson Goode to investigate the confrontation.

"Human nature just will not allow the society to feel it as deeply as he does ... so he must remind us," Washington said.

Besides Michael, another MOVE member, Ramona Africa, survived the fire.

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Valentine Opposes Unfair Census Practice; Reports Say N.C. Could Lose Congressional Seat

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a move that could help prevent North Carolina from losing a member of Congress, Rep. Tim Valentine has joined 22 other House members in offering a bill,

which was introduced Nov. 10, that would stop the Census Bureau from counting illegal aliens in the 1990 population tally that will be used to apportion House seats among the states.

"I am an original cosponsor of this bill because I believe that citizens in North Carolina and every other state deserve a truly representative census and a truly representative government," Valentine said. "Without this bill, states with a large number of illegal aliens might be over-represented, and states with fewer illegal aliens, such as North Carolina, might be under-represented in the 1990's."

According to 1980 Census Bureau statistics, Valentine added, there were more than two million illegal aliens living in the United States. More than 5% lived in five states. As a result, two of those states gained Congressional seats that would have been allocated to other states.

The effects of the illegal alien population on 1990 census are expected to be even greater. North Carolina has grown rapidly in the 1980s and is projected to gain a twelfth House seat under some estimates. If illegal aliens are counted, however, North Carolina is one of the five states that could lose a Congressional seat.

"I believe this practice distorts the democratic process," Valentine added. "By reallocating Congressional seats based on a count that includes illegal aliens, we are cheating citizens of full representation in the federal government."



OMEGA ACHIEVEMENT WEEK — Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity presented awards and honors during its annual Achievement Week observance, Fri., Nov. 13, at the W.G. Pearson Cafeteria, NCCU. Pictured (l-r) are: John Lucas, Citizen of the Year; William C. Parker of Greensboro who delivered the keynote address; John H. Scott, basileus, Beta Phi Chapter; Edgar D. Murphy, III, chairman, Achievement Week Committee; Floyd Ferebee, Omega Man of the Year; Carey Hughley and Keith Tapp, Service Award recipients.