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Lafayette's Mark on History



The American

Revolutionary War was the birth of America's freedom. Those involved in the war fought long and hard for our democracy.

Although these statements are widely believed, not many

understand the depth of bravery

the colonists had to have. The British had a huge army with plenty of weapons and war strategies, while the colonies consisted of mainly farmers trying to make a living.

Although the colonists seemed to have a disadvantage, people from other countries assisted the colonists in their fight for independence. One person who joined the fight was Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette served a major role in the American Revolutionary War, and Fayetteville, North Carolina is proud to be named after him. Lafayette's contribution to the war was nothing small, and his acts of bravery will not be forgotten.

So, let's take it back to history for a few moments. The tension between the colonies and Britain began with a lack of representation of the colonies in Parliament. Taxes were being placed on the colonies to help pay for the French and Indian War. The Stamp Act had one of the biggest impacts on the colonist's pockets as it taxed

paper goods. Because the colonies had no representation in Parliament, no one could object to this act. Although the Stamp Act was repealed, the British soon placed other acts that would affect the colonies, like the Townshend Act. People in the colonies became more organized and began boycotting British goods. This led to events like the "Boston Massacre," where five colonists were killed by British soldiers. It also led to the infamous "Boston Tea Party" where crates of tea were dumped into the ocean because of the tax on tea. Then, in 1775, "The Shot Heard Round the World" started the war ("Tea, Taxes, and the American Revolution").

Inspired by America's bravery, Marquis de Lafayette sailed to the colonies to join the fight for freedom. Lafayette volunteered his military skills and tactics to the colonial leaders. Gaining recognition for his successful strategies in battles, Lafayette earned the ranking of major-general in the Continental Army. Serving his first major combat duty in 1777, Lafayette was shot in the leg during the Battle of Brandywine. George Washington was fond of Lafayette, so he requested doctors take great care of Lafayette's wounds. This caused a strong bond between Washington and Lafayette until death. In 1781, Lafayette became commander of the Virginia Continental forces. Lafayette and his men cornered British Lieutenant General Lord Cornwallis' army in Yorktown, Virginia, allowing Washington and France's Count Rochambeau the chance to finally make the British surrender ("Marquis de Lafayette").

Lafayette demonstrates his conscientious heart through his actions in the Revolutionary War. Lafayette's strong character and goodwill led me to pick the historical marker dedicated to him. Lafayette is known as "The Hero of Two Worlds." Lafayette felt very strongly for the American colonies in their fight for freedom.

Fayetteville, North Carolina was the first city named in honor of Lafayette. Fayetteville is well known for its military base, Fort Liberty, also known as Fort Bragg. There are several historical markers in Fayetteville, including the marker of "Moore's Camp" where General James Moore and his army stopped to camp before the Battle of Moore's Creek, the marker labeled "Cornwallis" to represent Cornwallis and his army's stop in Fayetteville, and more. The "Lafayette" site marker was made for Lafayette after his stay in Fayetteville. When Lafayette was sixty-eight years old, he returned to the United States. Although it was not in his original plan, Lafayette was hosted by Duncan McRae for one night in the city of Fayetteville. It is said that Fayetteville, North Carolina is the only city he visited that was named after him. This led to a historical marker being made in honor of his stay in the city named after him ("About Fayetteville").

Upon researching Lafayette's historical marker, I was refreshed by the patriotic hearts of those who fought for our freedom. Many brave humans fought against the British because they believed in the future of themselves and the generations to come. I am astonished at the courage the people had back then to stand for what they believed in. Lafayette's strong-willed soul volunteered his services in hopes of a new nation. I am proud to be so close to a city that contains so much history in the nation's upbringing. I am so inspired by the people and events of the Revolutionary War because they showed the true strength of democracy.

As stated previously, the actions of Lafayette will not be forgotten. History speaks for itself, and Lafayette's good character shines through. I feel many who learn of Lafayette's mark on history would view him as a hero, as many did when he was alive. The marker for Lafayette is located on Gillespie Street near Franklin Street in

Fayetteville. This is where the Historical Courthouse of Cumberland County sits.

Lafayette has various signs, monuments, and even an exhibit of his artifacts in a local history museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Fayetteville will make sure that Lafayette's story stays well-preserved for future generations to learn of his admirable mark on history.

Works Cited

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