



200th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Update and Request

Dr. Judy Bense, Chair, Ms. Margo Stringfield, Co-Chair

March 9, 2020

Update

- **Margo Stringfield Co-Chair** (Viva 500 celebration leader)
- **Committee is set and meeting monthly**
- **Year-long commemoration July 2020-July 2021**
- **BIG commemoration event on July 17, 2021**
- **Reenactments and flag raising ceremony**
- **Diversity and Inclusion focus** (represent all the people who were here in 1821)
- **Visit Pensacola assisting and coordinating events**
- **Local organizations adopting the bicentennial theme for events**
 - E g. St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation, Genealogical Society
- **County has contact: Laura Coale**
- **Why it is important:** We are promoting who we are as Floridians and Americans with our all the programming

Support by Mayor Robinson

- 1. City Council resolution in support of 200th Anniversary commemoration**
- 2. \$25,000 in seed funds** (To UWF Historic Trust for disbursement and accounting) e.g. visibility and event enhancement, especially on commemorative date
 - a. Will ask for County match
 - b. Will raise private funds for specific items and events (e.g. banners)

Examples of Diversity and Inclusion in the Commemoration :

Flag Raising Ceremony

- Collaborating with West Florida Genealogical Society to *identify people who were in Pensacola and attended likely at the flag exchange ceremony in 1821*. Focus is **inclusive** gender, age, socio economic standing, ethnicity, etc. will all be reflected in the results. This project will *highlight our diverse heritage in a dynamic manner*. We will have individuals at the July 2021 event *representing each of those identified* from our past.
- Those working closely with the WFGS are: Dr. Jamin Wells, Dr. Marion Williams, Ms. Renea Brown, Margo Stringfield, Robin Reshard.

St. Michaels Cemetery grave marking

- Dr. Jamin and Ms. Renea are leading the St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation project to *identify all people from the early Territorial Period buried in the cemetery with an emphasis on people of color* in the cemetery.
- In the past our community has focused on the well known "big names" and while there will be plenty of Big Names involved, this project *brings our **whole community** to the forefront* in the formation of our City and County.

200th Anniversary Committee Members

Dr. Judy Bense, *chair* and historical archaeologist, 18th century

Ms. Margo Stringfield, *co-chair*, historical archaeologist

Mr. Rob Overton, Director, UWF Historic Trust

Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, historical archaeologist, 18th and 19th century

Dr. Brian Rucker, historian, Northwest Florida

Mr. Gregg Harding, Historic Preservation Planner, City of Pensacola

Dr. Marion Williams, local historian and African-American leader

Dr. John Appleyard, local public historian

Dr. Bill Lees, historical archaeologist 19th century and Executive Director, Florida Public

Archaeology Network

Ms. Teniadé Broughton, President, John Sunday Society, member of Pensacola Save

Our Structures

Mr. Jack Brown, Interim Director, Visit Pensacola

