

**STATEMENT OF YULANDA BURGESS
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE BILL 1130**

I, Yulanda Burgess, am a resident of Detroit, Michigan, residing at 10857 Lakepointe, Detroit, Michigan 48224-1701, and support H.R. 1130 which was reintroduced Representative Bobby Rush of Illinois on February 8, 2019. It is my understanding that this bill will cause a special resource study of the Fort Pillow Historic Park located in Henning, Tennessee, to determine its suitability and feasibility to become a unit of the National Historic Park System. I support the "Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park Study Act" for the reasons set forward:

1. Given the National Park Service's commitment to be more inclusive of African Americans involvement in the American Civil in its narratives, historical memories, and preservation of historic sites over the past decade, I believe that the public's awareness of United States Colored Troops garrisoned at Fort Pillow would be enhanced if it became a unit of the National Park Service.

2. The United States Colored Troops involved at Fort Pillow has national historical significance as it resulted in the 38th Congress conducting an investigation and hearing of the slaughter and re-enslavement of African American soldiers.

3. I believe that the State of Tennessee is currently unable to preserve, promote and foster public awareness of the April 12, 1864 massive killing of Union soldiers and civilians.

4. I am the great granddaughter of Armstead Burgess who was a private in the 6th United States Colored Heavy Artillery, Co. B, garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

5. My great grandfather Armstead Burgess was wounded and reenslaved after April 12, 1864, and reported back to duty on May 19, 1865. See Attachment A.

6. I believe that Armstead Burgess was one of the few who survived the massacre at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

7. Since 2013, I have collaborated with the descendants of Peter Williams (who was a private with the 6th United Stated Colored Heavy Artillery, Co. A, and also survived the massacre) to preserve the memory and bring public awareness of the massacre that occurred on April 12, 1864.

8. As a spokesperson for the descendants who are currently engaged in the historical legacy of Fort Pillow, I state that without our efforts there would be no memorial at the fortification for the Union soldiers and civilians who we subjected to a tragedy on April 12, 1864.

9. These efforts include annually organizing, funding and conducting commemorations and memorials at the fortification. See Attachment B.

10. The annual memorial is categorized as a non-public event in which the Fort Pillow Park rangers offer assistance and is similar to other private recreational events that are allowed in the park.

11. The Fort Pillow Park staff does not limit the amount of people who attend and does not dictate the invited guests.

12. Fort Pillow Historic Park does not include the memorial on its calendar.

13. As such, we have faced challenges honoring the Union soldiers and civilians who were garrisoned at Fort Pillow in 1864.

14. These challenges include the financial obligations in conducting the memorials and commemoration as the State of Tennessee does not contribute to this annual effort.

15. The total non-profit cost incurred solely by the descendants for the 2019 memorial was \$563.15, with an expectation of approximately \$531.50 for 2020. See Attachment C.

16. Additionally, the memorial is subjected to racist comments on social media as exemplified on the Fort Pillow State Historic Park Facebook April 14, 2018 posting which began as a summary with photographs of that year's memorial. See: <https://www.facebook.com/FortPillowStateHistoricPark/>)

17. My announcement of the 2019 was subjected to racist comments on the "Civil War Talk" discussion group which was later removed by the moderators. See Attachment D.

18. I, along with other descendants of Armstead Burgess and Peter Williams, have prepared ourselves defensively for those who might attend the annual memorial in a threatening and malicious manner.

19. This includes peacefully and verbally deescalating any harm that might occur to our invited guests given that we are only accompanied by two Park Rangers when the memorial is held.

20. Additionally, our lack of resources impeded our ability to timely notify and invite the general public, historical organizations, educational institutions and educators, local, state and national political leaders to the annual memorial. See Attachment E.

21. These challenges also include easy access to the fortification.

22. Access to the fortification is not handicapped accessible.

23. It is only due to the cooperation of the Fort Pillow staff led by Robby Tidwell that participants wishing to observe the anniversary of the massacre and honor the Union soldiers and civilians are transported from the Visitor's Center to the fortification.

24. These accommodations include providing a flatbed trailer which is pulled by a tractor or the Park Rangers driving those with mobility issues in SUV to the fortification.

25. Those wishing to walk to the fortification need to hike two miles round trip as the State of Tennessee has failed to repair a suspension bridge which shortens the walk to one mile round trip.

26. The failure of the State of Tennessee to maintain access to the fortification exemplifies its inability to maintain the park's infrastructure.

27. The State of Tennessee's failure to commemorate the massacre with a memorial each year exemplifies its lack of commitment to educate and preserve the history of Fort Pillow.

28. This lack of commitment is rooted in the Tennessee Historical Commission's failure to include Fort Pillow in its 150th Anniversary observations of the American Civil War.

29. It was only through protests that began in May 2013 and continued through November 2013 that Fort Pillow was included in Tennessee's sesquicentennial observations which was finally initiated by Jeff Wells, Fred Prouty, Norm Hill and Dr. George Smith. See Attachment F.

30. The State of Tennessee's miseducation is exemplified by Tennessee Senate Resolution No. 178 dated April 2, 2018 signed by Senator Reginal Tate and Speaker of the Senate Randy McNally as it promotes the misinformation that the Confederate cavalry "easily stormed and captured Fort Pillow" whereas factual historical evidence concludes that on April 12, 1864, the Union soldiers held off the Confederates from early morning to mid-afternoon before the slaughter of men, women and children commenced and continued into the next day. See Attachment G.

31. I, along with the descendants of Peter Williams, have educated the public about Fort Pillow through collaboration with Rhodes College, the University of Memphis, appearing on news shows, have been featured in newspaper articles, participated in lectures and presentations, and oral history projects.

32. I believe that the National Park Service is a more suitable entity to handle the annual memorial, publicity, and public awareness which has been handled by the descendants.

33. I believe the National Park Service has access to and could use primary resources to preserve the legacy of Union soldiers who fought and were later massacred at Fort Pillow and to address the racism that often occurs over this historically significant event.

34. I believe the National Park Service will help initiate a platform for education and resources regarding the massacre that occurred on April 12, 1864 and the events that led to it.

35. I believe that Fort Pillow inclusion in the National Park system will solidify its connection with the Corinth Battlefield Unit and the Corinth Contraband Camp as soldiers of Company A and B of 6th USCHA were trained in Corinth and inhabited the contraband camp prior to being mustered into service.

36. The soldiers' connection with Corinth, Fort Pickering in Memphis and its connection with the contraband camp is not sufficiently exhibited in the Fort Pillow Visitor's Center.

37. The reasons set forth above are just a few examples of my experiences in preserving the history of Union soldiers and civilians who were garrisoned and massacred at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

38. As a spokesperson for the Descendants of the Fort Pillow Massacre, I state our wish for Fort Pillow State Park to be included in the National Park Service.

39. We support any effort which will explore the feasibility of transferring this historic site under the National Park Service.

Yulanda Burgess
May 20, 2019

Attachment A

40

FINAL STATEMENT

1
1st Cavalry
6.27.64
U.S.C. Art. 140
7
1st Cavalry
7

VOLUNTEERS.

NOTE 1.—These certificates (or duplicates) are to be given to each Volunteer Soldier or drafted man who may be discharged previously to the discharge of his company. That he may at once receive from the Company Commander, pay, *see* this list, and the captain or other commanding officer. The company will certify to the act of the delivery of the duplicate certificate; on these certificates the Soldier is "entitled to" his discharge, and should also present his discharge to the Paymaster to have the payment rendered on it. The discharge is to be given back to the Soldier by the Paymaster; the latter only retaining as his voucher the duplicate certificate.

NOTE 2.—If the Soldier is entitled to pay for the use of his horse, the Company Commander will certify to that fact on the back of both these final statements, and also to the fact he has pay due for having been so situated on his own horse.

NOTE 3.—When a Soldier is furnished with final statements, his descriptive list if he has one, should be taken up by the officer who gives the Soldier these statements, and endorsed with a statement to that effect by the officer. This endorsement should exhibit a full statement of the time for which the Soldier was allowed pay on his final statements, the clothing account, and all other charges against him or in his favor, so as to complete a complete exhibit of his account. It will then be transmitted to the commanding officer of the Soldier, who will cause all the data necessary to a full understanding of the Soldier's account on the muster roll upon which the Soldier's discharge is reported. The descriptive list will then be forwarded. The object of this is, that the commanding officer of the Soldier's account may be settled upon the receipt of these outside rolls, and the Soldier receive any pay or allowances that may be due him at the time of his discharge, and which may not appear on his final statements from the fact that his descriptive list is incomplete. These amounts for back pay, *see*, are settled by the SA Auditor of the Treasury Department.

NOTE 4.—Charges for loss or injury to ordnance, horse equipments, and other miscellaneous charges, should appear under the heading of "Other Scrapages."

NOTE 5.—Bounty paid by State authorities, and not by the United States, will not be entered on this statement.

NOTE 6.—Amounts due the Sather and Landress must be entered on the muster roll on which the Soldier's death, desertion, *see*, is reported, as well as on the final statement, *see*, as the amount cannot be collected from the United States.

NOTE 7.—This blank will be used for deceased volunteers and drafted men, as well as for others.

NOTE 8.—Where a Soldier dies in Hospital or on detached service, his descriptive list, if he has one, should be sent with his final statements, in duplicate, to the Second Auditor, Washington, D. C.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

July 18th 1864

Duplicate with Inventory sent 2d Auditor.

1st Cavalry
6.27.64
7

I certify, on honor, that Armistead Augustus Tomate of
Captain John H. Brown Company (B) of the 7 Regiment of U.S.C. Art. 14th
VOLUNTEERS, of the State of _____, born in Franklin, State
of Alabama, aged 17 years; 5 feet 9 inches high; Black complexion,
Black eyes, Black hair, and by occupation a Laborer, having joined the company on
its original organization at South Miss, and enrolled in it at the muster into
the service of the United States at South Miss, on the 7th day
of Sept, 1863, (or was mustered in service as a recruit, by _____
at _____, on the _____ day of _____,
1863, or was drafted and mustered into the service of the United States from the _____

Enrollment District of the State of _____, at _____,
on the _____ day of _____, 1863,) to serve in the Regiment, for
the term of Three Years; and having served **HONESTLY** and
FAITHFULLY with his Company in the field to the present date, is now
entitled to a **DISCHARGE** by reason of Missing in action since

April 12, 1864, supposed to have been killed

The said Private Armistead Augustus Tomate was last paid by Paymaster
Wm. Tolman to include the 31st day of Dec, 1863, and has
pay due him from that time to the present date; he is entitled to pay and subsistence for
TRAVELING to place of enrollment, and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer
soldiers, drafted men, or militia, so discharged. He has received from the United States **CLOTHING**
amounting to _____ dollars, since the _____ day of _____,
1863, when his clothing account was last settled. He has received from the United States
_____ dollars advanced **BOUNTY**.

There is to be stopped from him, on account of the State of _____, or other
authorities, for **CLOTHING, &c.**, received on entering service, _____ dollars; and
for other stoppages, viz: Cannot give the amount of clothing

known the company clothing both was lost at Fort Pillow
from April 12, 1864, cannot give any amount _____ dollars.

He has been furnished with **TRANSPORTATION** in kind from the place of his discharge to
_____ ; and he has been **SUBSISTED** for **TRAVELING** to his
place of enrollment, up to the _____, 1863.

He is indebted to _____, **SUTLER**, _____ dollars.
He is indebted to _____, **LAUNDRESS**, _____ dollars.

Given in Duplicate, at Fort Pickens Tenn, this 10 day
of July, 1864

Walter H. Sifford

2d Lieut 7 U.S.C. Art. 14th

Commanding Company B

A. G. O. No. 95—First.

Effects lost at Fort Pillow
Tenn April 12, 1864

Private Armstead Burgess

1st Regiment Alabama Siege Artillery, Co. B

1st Regiment Tennessee Colored Heavy Artillery, Co. B

6th US Colored Regiment Heavy Artillery; Co. B

5th US Colored Regiment Heavy Artillery, Co. B

7th US Colored Regiment Heavy Artillery, Co. B

11th US Colored Infantry New, Co. B

Armstead Burgess enlisted in the Union Army on August 17, 1863, at Corinth, Mississippi, when he was seventeen-years-old. He had been enslaved on the plantation of Benjamin Burgess in Pleasant Site, Franklin County, Alabama. Many African Americans had taken refuge in Corinth, Mississippi, where the federal government had established a “contraband camp.” The men were eventually recruited from that civilian camp and the surrounding areas to become soldiers in the Union Army. Among these individuals were Armstead’s older brother, Robert Burgess who enlisted in the infantry. As the majority of these men were from Alabama, Armstead’s regiment received that state’s designation: the 1st Regiment Alabama Siege Artillery. In the spring of 1864 its designation changed to Tennessee and finally from a volunteer force to regular Army under the Bureau of Colored Troops to become the 6th US Colored Heavy Artillery.

Armstead served as a private in the US Artillery and Infantry from September 7, 1863, until January 12, 1866. He was described as black complexion with black hair and eyes, and five feet, nine inches tall. His occupation was “laborer.”

On April 12, 1864, Private Burgess was engaged in battle at Fort Pillow on the banks of the Mississippi River near Henning, Tennessee. Beginning at approximately 8 o’clock in the morning, approximately 589 Union soldiers held their ground and sustained only twenty casualties until the Confederates, under the leadership of Nathan Bedford Forrest, advanced under ceasefire. It was under these broken terms of warfare that the Confederates overcame the Union soldiers. A legitimate battle engagement had turned into a massacre as by mid-afternoon. Private Burgess suffered head injuries caused by a musket rifle and was shot in the leg. Despite these injuries, he survived. However, approximately 335 men from his regiment (the 6th US Colored Heavy Artillery), the 2nd US Colored Light Artillery, and 13th Tennessee Cavalry were massacred after they surrendered. Civilian men, women and children were murdered, and white Union officers executed. The onslaught was so horrific that eyewitness accounts state that the water of the Mississippi River turned red.

African American soldiers who were not massacred or escaped were reenslaved by the Confederate Army as its government did not consider them soldiers. They were, instead, treated as slaves in rebellion and white men serving as officers of black troops were considered traitors. It was under these conditions that Armstead and about thirty of his brothers in arms and a white officer were marched towards Brownsville, Tennessee. Along that route, these soldiers witnessed the execution of their white commanding officer. Armstead was taken to Mobile, Alabama, where

his injuries were finally treated. For several months he worked on Confederate fortifications in Alabama and Mississippi. The Confederates later transported him by train to Richmond, Virginia. Armstead's enslavement and oppression finally concluded in the spring of 1865 due to the Union Army capturing the Confederate capital of Richmond.

On May 19, 1865, Private Burgess answered the roll call at Fort Pickering in Memphis, Tennessee. He had dutifully returned from his regiment after thirteen months and the Union Army recognized his status as a former prisoner of war. The original heavy artillery unit no longer existed and his regiment had been redesignated the 11th US Colored Infantry, New. Internal conflict between members of the older companies and newer companies caused friction. Armstead was involved in the conflict and imprisoned at Irving Prison, Block 10, for fighting from August 30, 1865 until October 16, 1865.

Certificates of honorable discharge for Armstead Burgess, Private, are dated July 10, 1864. An excerpt reads:

Having honestly and faithfully with his Company in the field to the present date, is now entitled to a discharge for reason of missing in action since April 12, 1864, supposing to have been killed.

The discharge certificates note that Armstead's "Effects lost at Fort Pillow Tenn April 12, 1864." The certificates were not reissued upon the realization of Armstead's survival; instead, one was voided and the muster roll for May and June 1865 state: "Returned from missing in action on May 19, 1865." The final muster roll card states that Armstead was mustered out of service on January 12, 1866. He owed the United States Government \$42.79 for his clothing allowance and \$2.39 for ordnance. His only paycheck was issued in November 1863. It was under these financial circumstances and visible scares of warfare that Armstead began a new chapter of his life as a Veteran of the Civil War. Armstead's brother, who enlisted with him in Corinth, became war casualty.

From 1866 to 1869 Armstead migrated between the surrounding counties of Memphis, Tennessee, working as a laborer and farm hand. During that time, he married Lewis Williams and they had three children. By 1869, the family settled in Somerville, Fayette County, Tennessee. Lewis died in November 1872 in Tennessee. Armstead continued to live in Somerville, Tennessee, as a farmer and laborer with his children.

In 1876 Armstead married Mollie McDowell in Rossville, Tennessee, and began another stage of his life. Their household included twelve children and the family were members of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as Christian Methodist Episcopal Church). The CME church was a denomination established by former slaves in Jacksonville, Tennessee in 1870. In 1884, the entire family migrated from Somerville, Tennessee, to Holly Grove, Monroe County, Arkansas, where they continued to farm. It is from this marriage that there are known descendants from their children who migrated to Topeka, Kansas, and Memphis, Tennessee. Mollie died in 1906 in Holly Grove, Arkansas.

Armstead married a third time to Laura Gilham. His misfortune continued as she was killed shortly after their marriage in March 1909 in a tornado that devastated Brinkley, Arkansas. His fourth wife was Bettie Brown Wilson Williams whom he married in November 1909. Both his third and fourth marriages included step-children. He continued to live in Monroe, County Arkansas, for the duration of his life.

Armstead began applying for his pension in 1889 as his health deteriorated. Complaints included rheumatism, stomach ailments, loss of vision in one eye, and chronic headaches. During the course of his pension applications, physicians noted two depressions in his skull: one measuring a half inch by three-quarters inch wide, and a one-third inch deep; the second measured a quarter inch wide by a quarter inch long. A wound was also noted on his right leg. In response to the pension board's request for witnesses to support his claim that he received these wounds in battle, Armstead affirmed the following under oath:

I was wounded in the massacre at Fort Pillow during the late war. ...It is impossible for me to furnish evidence of persons who were right present and saw wound given me or of persons having personal knowledge of the matter of how I incurred wounds of head during said fight.

This veteran finally received a pension in about 1901. There is no evidence that he received his military service payment. He continued to receive a veteran's pension with increases as his health declined until his death on April 4, 1923, in Holly Grove, Arkansas.

Armstead Burgess's name appears on the African American Civil War Memorial Monument in Washington, D.C., listed in the 11th US Colored Infantry (New) section. The National Park Service recognizes the formation of his artillery unit at its original battery in Corinth, Mississippi, along with the contraband camp. Additionally, Armstead is incorrectly referred to as Armstrong Burgess in Andrew Ward's *River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War*. The mistake having arose from the Armstead's pension papers.

Civil War Union Veteran Armstead faithfully served his country for 853 days in a war that liberated both him and millions of African Americans from slavery. His last resting place is Shady Grove Cemetery (Clarendon, Arkansas) in the "colored" section which is overgrown with brush, wild grasses, and fallen trees scattered about. The search will continue to find the grave of this old veteran who lived his life with a visible wound sustained in Fort Pillow and the scares inflicted by a segregated country.

Attachment B



April 12
1864

Remembering Fort Pillow

**Fort Pillow State Park
Henning, Tennessee**

April 13, 2019
10 am to 4 pm

Remembering...

2nd US Colored Light Artillery

6th US Colored Heavy Artillery

13th Tennessee Cavalry, US
(Bradford's Battalion)

Civilians

Today is an occasion to pause and remember the sacrifices of the Union soldiers and civilians garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864. The vast majority of approximately 540 Union soldiers were killed in action, wounded, became missing never to be heard of again, imprisoned in South Carolina or Georgia, were re-enslaved, or executed. Civilians also fell victim to the onslaught. Within a few days after this massacre, the international outcry became a rally to "Remember Fort Pillow." Today, 155 years later, the rally continues as "We Remember Fort Pillow."

Prelude Service

At the Visitors Center Flag Pole at 10:30 am

National Anthem	<i>All</i>
Welcome	<i>Robby Tidwell, Fort Pillow State Park Manager</i>
The Occasion	<i>Master Sargent Joe Williams, US Army, Retired</i>
Placement of Wreath	<i>Descendants and Guests</i>

Order of Service

Inside the Fortification at 12 Noon

Parading and Posting Colors	<i>Active Military and Veterans or Commemorative USCT Units</i>
Roll Call	<i>Senior Chief Norris Thomas US Navy Retired</i>
Prayer and Scripture	<i>Rev. Brown Lee Donelson</i>
Pledge of Allegiance	<i>All</i>
Spiritual	<i>O Rapturous Scenes (Written by Bishop Lucius Henry Holsey) Sung by Yulanda Burgess</i>
Placement of Wreath and Flags	<i>Descendants</i>
Remembrance in Rosemary	<i>Patricia Tyson and Bobbi Coles, African American Civil War Museum and Memorial Guests</i>
Remarks/Reflections	<i>Norris Thomas, III</i>
Scattering of White Carnations and Rosemary and Recognition of Fort Pillow Soldiers and Civilians <i>Directed by Yulanda Burgess</i>	<i>Jailyn Hurt, Flower Girl All</i>
Closing Prayer and Benediction	<i>Rev. Brown Lee Donelson</i>
Taps	
Retire Colors	<i>Active Military and Veterans or Commemorative USCT Units</i>

Pledge of Alliance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Symbols of Remembrance

The White Carnation was used by the Garnet Equal Rights League who sponsored the Grand Review of US Colored Troops on November 14, 1865, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Soldiers were showered with carnations during the parade. It became the official flower for USCT veterans and descendants. Today, the flower is being used to remember the USCTs, USVs and Civilians garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

Rosemary throughout the ages has been a symbol of remembrance. Rosemary placed here today symbolizes that we have not forgotten the deeds and acts of our ancestors.

The ***Fort Pillow Descendants' logo*** symbolizes gold for the 13th Tennessee Cavalry, red for the 2nd US Light Artillery and 6th US Colored Heavy Artillery, and the flag they defended.

Future Dates for Remembering Fort Pillow

April 11, 2020; April 10, 2021; April 9, 2022

Contact: RememberFortPillow1864@yahoo.com

Attachment C

EXPENSES FOR 2019 REMEMBERING FORT PILLOW

ITEM	DETAIL	SOURCE	
Meals	Ribs, Chicken, Sides, and Beverages	Norris	\$160.00
Fresh Rosemary	Sprigs	Sam's Club	\$62.25
Fresh Carnations	\$1 each plus 9.5% tax	Piano's Flowers and Gifts	\$99.42
Artificial Wreaths	3 at \$19.99 each	Joann's	\$63.57
Postage	Invitation mailings	UPS Store	\$12.00
Office Supplies (Envelopes)	Invitation mailings	UPS Store	\$12.00
Craft Supplies	Glue and hot glue sticks	Joann's	\$3.95
Floral supplies and Easels	3 easels, ribbon, cloth wire	Dealers Discount	\$38.97
Floral supplies	Ribbons, flowers and greens	Dealers Discount	\$74.33
Lettering	Lettering	Joann's	\$11.16
Lettered Ribbon	Corsage Ribbon	Ribbon Warehouse	\$25.50
Printing	Programs and Invitations	Private Donation	\$0.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$563.15





Estimated Expenses for 2020 Remembering Fort Pillow

ITEM	DETAILS	TOTAL
Artificial Wreaths	3 at \$40.00 each	\$120.00
Easels	3 at \$5.00 each	\$15.00
Fresh Carnations	100 at \$1.00 each	\$100.00
Fresh Rosemary	Source: Sam's Club Delivered	\$58.50
Postage	USPS	\$12.00
Printing (Programs, Invites, etc)	100 @.13 (mix 1/w and color. 2 sided)	\$26.00
Invitations/Publicity	Stamps, paper, envelopes etc	\$40.00
Does Not include corsages		\$0.00
Carry over lettering and floral supplies		\$0.00
Meals		\$160.00
	TOTAL	\$531.50

Attachment D

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Remembering Fort Pillow, April 13, 2019

 Yulie ·  Yesterday at 10:58 AM ·  None 

[Watch](#)

 **Yulie**
Corporal

Yesterday at 10:58 AM

#1

FORT PILLOW COMMEMORATION **April 13, 2019 at Fort Pillow State Park** **10 am to 4 pm**

3122 Park Road, Henning, Tennessee 38041

Rain or Shine

The annual tribute to Union soldiers and civilians involved in the Fort Pillow Massacre will occurred on Saturday, April 13, 2019. This event is coordinated by the descendants of Union soldiers and civilians who were garrisoned at Fort Pillow. Thus far, descendants of three Union soldiers and civilians have been located. The public is invited. This will be the 155th Anniversary. It is a memorial and fellowship to honor those who were victimized on April 12, 1864.

This annual event will take place at Fort Pillow in Henning, Tenn., from **10 am to 4 pm**. It is important that everyone meet at the Visitors Center at 10 am as transportation to the fortification needs to be coordinated. People will either take the one mile hike to the fort or take a tractor pulling a flatbed. There will be very limited availability to SUVs for those with mobility issues. There is also access to the fortification by driving to a location and walking 1/2 mile, but you must come to the Visitors Center to obtain the map. People are certainly welcomed to budget their own time on getting there. However, the ceremony within the fortification will begin at promptly 12 noon. The Park Rangers arrange a personal guided tour after the ceremony. People are welcomed to stay for refreshments after the ceremony. Everything, including clean-up will conclude at 4 pm.

What to bring:

- Your own chair
- Wear sturdy walking shoes
- Rain gear as this is a rain or shine event
- Sun gear if it's sunny and hot

How to Get to Fort Pillow:

It's about 40 miles from Memphis but will take you a good amount of time to get there. Seriously. Give yourself ample time to get there. Follow your GPS directions. You will not be going through the town of Henning. You'll take some narrow back roads which will place you back on a more open road to get there. When you see the prison, you'll know you're on the right route. Upon entry to the park, take the road all the way back until it ends at the Visitors Center.

ADDITIONALLY:

National Fort Pillow Wreath Laying Ceremony

Memphis National Cemetery

April 12, 2019

10 am

3568 Townes Ave.

Memphis, TN 38122

There will also be a ceremony in Memphis on April 12, 2019, to honor the Fort Pillow soldiers and civilians buried at the Memphis National Cemetery. The cemetery is located at 3568 Townes Ave., Memphis, TN 38122.

-Yulie

Attachments



Fort Pillow Invite 2...
400.1 KB Views: 5

Last edited: Yesterday at 1:34 PM

Report Bookmark

+ Quote Reply

ForeverFree, diane, roberts and 1 other person



Pat Young

Brev. Brig. Gen'l

Forum Host

Featured Book Reviewer

Yesterday at 1:08 PM

#2

Thanks for posting this.

Being Irish, he had an abiding sense of tragedy, which sustained him through temporary periods of joy.

[William Butler Yeats](#)

[Report](#) [Bookmark](#)

[Like](#) [+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)



jackt62

2nd Lieutenant

Yesterday at 1:18 PM

#3

Glad to see that this tragic episode is being commemorated.

[Report](#) [Bookmark](#)

[Like](#) [+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)

[ForeverFree](#)



BillO

Captain

Yesterday at 1:25 PM

#4

LOL

"Brevity is the soul of wit."

William Shakespeare, "Hamlet", Act 2 scene 2

[Report](#) [Bookmark](#)

[Like](#) [+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)



Yulie

Corporal

Yesterday at 1:49 PM

#5

BillO said: [↑](#)

LOL

Please give me an understanding why you think that any of this (whether the commemoration or otherwise) is laughable.

-Yulie

[Report](#) [Bookmark](#)

[+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)



BillO

Captain

Today at 12:46 PM

#6

"massacre"?

"Brevity is the soul of wit."
William Shakespeare, "Hamlet", Act 2 scene 2

Report Bookmark

Like + Quote Reply



Old Breck

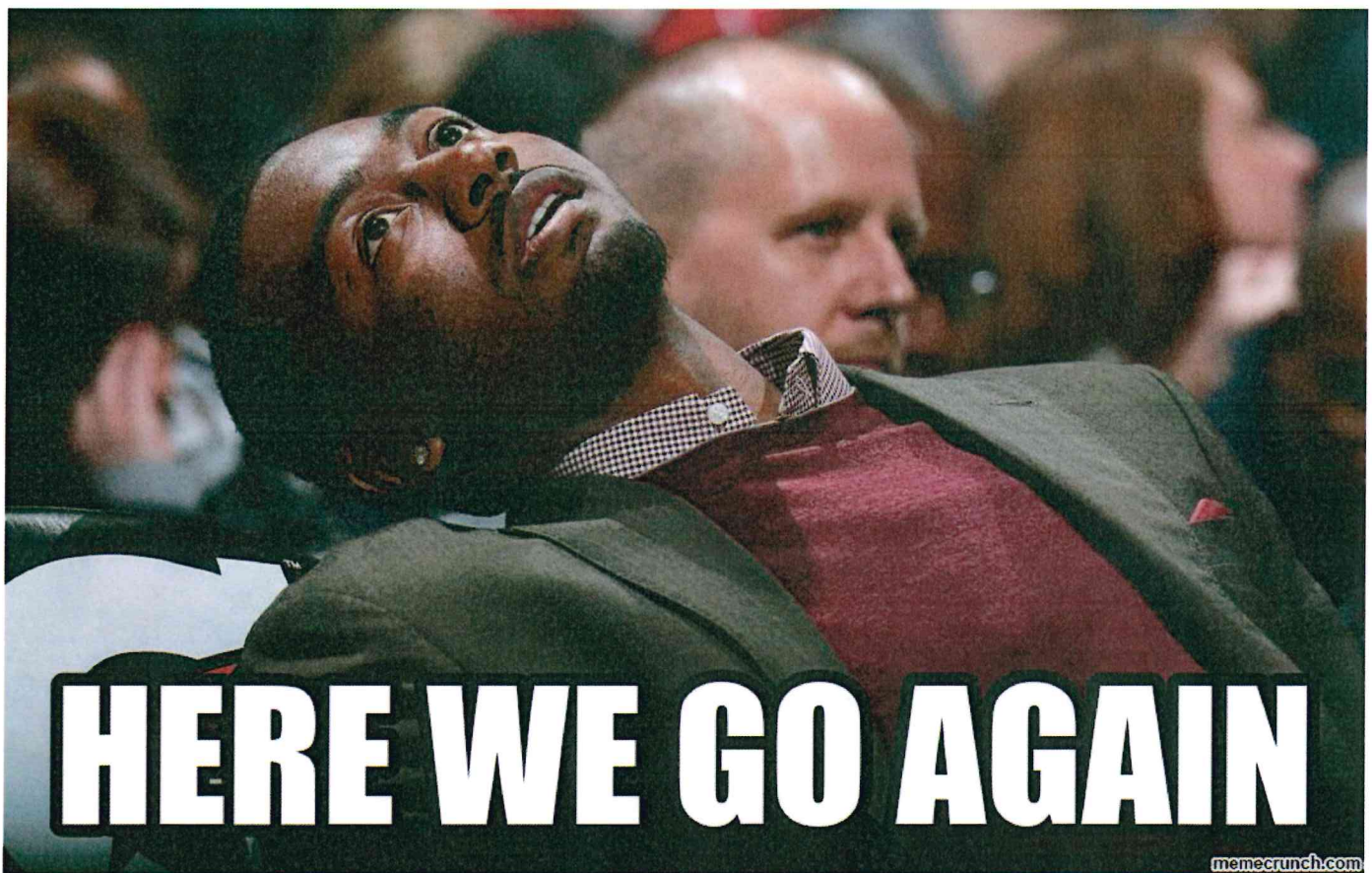
Private

57 minutes ago

#7

BillO said: ↗

"massacre"?



"My pilot mate was a New Yorker. He was strong for the Union; so was I....A month later the secession atmosphere had considerably thickened on the Lower Mississippi and I became a rebel; so did he."

The Private History of a Campaign That Failed

Report Bookmark

Like + Quote Reply



Yulie

Corporal

9 minutes ago

BillO said: ↗

"massacre"?

Yes. Massacre. The people who were there fitting for their lives and survived called it a massacre during their lifetime. The descendant's of these men and women continue to call it a massacre. It's your choice to believe them or not.

Your interjection into this event announcement is sad.

-Yulie

[Report](#) [Edit](#) [Bookmark](#)

[+ Quote](#) [↩ Reply](#)

 **Yulie**
Corporal

3 minutes ago

#9

Old Breck said: ↗


[View attachment 297157](#)

Your comment (in conjunction with another comment) regarding this announcement regarding a memorial held by descendants of Union soldiers who were at Fort Pillow is sad and undignified.

-Yulie

[Report](#) [Edit](#) [Bookmark](#)

[+ Quote](#) [↩ Reply](#)



Write your reply...

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3/15/2019

Remembering Fort Pillow, April 13, 2019 | American Civil War Forums

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Attachment E



Descendants Remembering the Fort Pillow Massacre

10857 Lakepointe, Detroit, MI 48224-1701
313.910.0410
rememberfortpillow1864@yahoo.com

April 12
1864

March 6, 2019

Via Email, only: Essence.Motley@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
c/o Essence Motley, MPH, Assistant to the Member/Staff Assistant
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301

**RE: Remembering Fort Pillow Commemoration and Tribute
April 13, 2019**

Dear Representative Rush:

On behalf of the descendants of Union Civil War soldiers and civilians who were subjected to the atrocities of April 12, 1864, I thank you for your efforts to bring recognition to this incident. We realize that the battle to bring public awareness of this massacre and appropriately remember the legacy of these men who fought for our freedoms is a heroic endeavor.

We continue to remember our ancestors in a tribute each year at the Fort Pillow fortification. It will be a pleasure if you, your staff and your guests will join us for this observation on Saturday, April 13, 2019, beginning at 10 a.m. Please find enclosed the flyer for this occasion.

It is important that you and your guests meet at the Visitor's Center at 10 am to either hike to the fortification or take transportation (a tractor pulling a flatbed). The hike to the fortification is about one mile. There will be limited availability to SUVs for those with mobility issues. The ceremony within the fortification will begin promptly at 12 noon. The Park Rangers will arrange for a personal guided tour after the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, there will be a cook out (barbecue) for guests and family members. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and personally talk with descendants of Union soldiers and civilians who were garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

I apologize for the late invitation and hope that you are able to attend. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,



Yulanda Burgess
Descendant of Pvt. Armstead Burgess

/yb
Enclosure



Descendants Remembering the Fort Pillow Massacre

10857 Lakepointe, Detroit, MI 48224-1701
313.910.0410
rememberfortpillow1864@yahoo.com

April 12
1864

March 27, 2019

First Baptist Church – Broad
c/o Matrice Caswell, Administrative Assistant
2835 Broad Ave.
Memphis, TN 38112

**RE: Remembering Fort Pillow Commemoration and Tribute
Fort Pillow State Park
3122 Park Road, Henning, Tennessee
April 13, 2019**

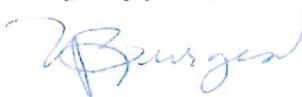
Dear Pastor and Church Family:

On April 13, 2019, descendants, kin, friends and guests will honor and pay tribute to Union soldiers and civilians involved in the Fort Pillow Massacre which occurred on April 12, 1864. This is the 155th Anniversary. It is a commemoration and fellowship to honor those who were victimized on April 12, 1864. This event is planned by descendants of two Union soldiers who survived the massacre.

This annual event will take place at Fort Pillow in Henning, Tenn., from 10 am to 4 pm. It is important that everyone meet at the Visitors Center at 10 am to be involved in either hiking to the fort or taking transportation (a flatbed pulled by a tractor). People can certainly budget their own time to walk the mile to the fortification. The ceremony within the fort will begin at 12 noon. The Park Rangers will arrange for a personal guided tour after the ceremony. Those with mobility issues will be transported by SUV, but will need to contact me by April 1, 2019, so we can accommodate them.

You are invited to a meal after the ceremony at Fort Pillow. Please RSVP to me by April 1, 2019, so can prepare for you. Please free to contact me for more information.

Very truly yours,



Yulanda Burgess
Descendant of Pvt. Armstead Burgess
313.910.0410
yulandab@msn.com

/yb

Enclosures





Descendants Remembering the Fort Pillow Massacre

10857 Lakepointe, Detroit, MI 48224-1701

313.910.0410

rememberfortpillow1864@yahoo.com

March 15, 2019

Ladrica Menson-Furr, Director
University of Memphis
African and African American Studies
Via Email: lmnsnfr@memphis.edu

**RE: Remembering Fort Pillow Commemoration and Tribute
Fort Pillow State Park
3122 Park Road, Henning, Tennessee
April 13, 2019**

Dear Dr. Menson-Furr:

On April 13, 2019, descendants, kin, friends and guests will honor and pay tribute to Union soldiers and civilians involved in the Fort Pillow Massacre which occurred on April 12, 1864. This is the 155th Anniversary. It is a commemoration and fellowship to honor those who were victimized on April 12, 1864. This event is planned by descendants of two Union soldiers who survived the massacre.

This annual event will take place at Fort Pillow in Henning, Tenn., from 10 am to 4 pm. It is important that everyone meet at the Visitors Center at 10 am to be involved in either hiking to the fort or taking transportation (a flatbed pulled by a tractor). People can certainly budget their own time to walk the mile to the fortification. The ceremony within the fort will begin at 12 noon. The Park Rangers will arrange for a personal guided tour after the ceremony. Those with mobility issues will be transported by SUV, but will need to contact me by April 1, 2019, so we can accommodate them.

Please share this information with students and faculty.

Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Very truly yours,

Yulanda Burgess
Descendant of Pvt. Armstead Burgess
313.910.0410
yulandab@msn.com

/yb

Enclosures

April 12, 1864



Robert Bell and Joe Williams, a descendant of Pvt. Peter Williams, Fort Pillow survivor.
Photo by Jim Weber, *Commercial and Appeal*, April 12, 2017

Remembering Fort Pillow

*Tribute and Commemoration of the
men, women and children who were brutalized on April 12, 1864*

Saturday, April 13, 2019

10 am to 4 pm

Fort Pillow State Park

3122 Park Road, Henning, Tennessee 38041

***Hosted by the Descendants of Union Soldiers Who Survived the
Massacre at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864***

Please meet at the Fort Pillow Visitors Center at 11 am.
The ceremony will be begin at 12 noon inside the Fortification. Rain or Shine.

A fellowship barbecue will take place after the ceremony.

For information, contact Yulanda Burgess at RememberFortPillow1864@yahoo.com

Future Remembrance Dates: April 11, 2020; April 10, 2021; April 9, 2022



Descendants Remembering the Fort Pillow Massacre

10857 Lakepointe, Detroit, MI 48224-1701

313.910.0410

rememberfortpillow1864@yahoo.com

April 12
1864

Remembering Fort Pillow, April 13, 2019

What to bring:

- Your own chair
- Wear sturdy walking shoes
- Rain gear as this is a rain or shine event
- Sun gear if it's sunny and hot

How to Get to Fort Pillow State Park

3122 Park Road, Henning, Tennessee

It's about 40 miles from Memphis and approximately 11 miles from Henning but will take you a good amount of time to get there. Seriously. Give yourself ample time to get there. Follow your GPS directions. You will not be going through the town of Henning. You'll take some narrow back roads which will place you back on a more open road to get there. When you see the prison, you'll know you're on the right route. Upon entry to the park, take the road all the way back until it ends at the Visitors Center.

Wreath Laying Ceremony Memphis National Cemetery

April 12, 2019

10 am

3568 Townes Ave., Memphis, TN 38122

There will also be a ceremony in Memphis on April 12, 2019, to honor the Fort Pillow soldiers buried at the Memphis National Cemetery. The cemetery is located at 3568 Townes Ave., Memphis, TN 38122. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 am.

Callie Herd is coordinating this effort and will provide further details. You can reach her at 901.485.2701, callieherd@gmail.com.

Attachment F

FW: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>

Tue 9/17/2013, 4:22 PM

To:yulandab@msn.com <yulandab@msn.com>

Cc:Jeff Wells <Jeff.Wells@tn.gov>;normhill1@msn.com <normhill1@msn.com>;

Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>

Dear Ms. Burgess,

Mr. Norm Hill has shared with me your questions about the participation of the Tennessee Wars Commission and the Tennessee Historical Commission's involvement with the 150th remembrance of the Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

First of all Tennessee's official Civil War 150th State Sesquicentennial Commission is in charge of creating "signature events" for each year of our states 150th observance of the Civil War years. I would suggest that you contact Ms. Patricia Gray at Tennessee Department of Tourism Development who is Tennessee's key contact person for the Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission at: Patricia.Gray@tn.gov or her office at: 615-741-9004 and/or cell: 615-310-7539. You might also want to contact Ms. Lee Curtis, Director of Program Development at Tennessee Tourism who also works with the State Sesquicentennial Commission at: Lee.Curtis@tn.gov or 615-741-9045.

As to the Wars Commission involvement in the Fort Pillow Commutation I have personally been in talks with Mr. Jeff Wells, Tennessee State Parks Director of Interpretation Programs and Education, about the importance of the 2014 Sesquicentennial remembrance ceremony at Fort Pillow State Historic Site, operated by Tennessee State Parks. Mr. Wells and State Parks will be in charge of the event planning. I have personally spoken with Mr. Norm Hill, Bill Radcliff and Dr. Smith in hopes of involving the USCT living history regiment as possible color bearers for the event. I have also spoken with Ms. Linda Wynn of the Tennessee Historical Commission and historian and professor Dr. Bobbie Lovette about the need to honor those fallen heroes at Fort Pillow on the 150th anniversary on April 12, 2014. I personally alerted T.D.E.C. Commissioner Robert Martineau and Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill (during their May 2013 staff meeting) as to the state and national importance of planning a fitting tribute for the 150th Commemoration of the Battle at Fort Pillow as a remembrance for those honored USCT troops who died for liberty. Mr. Jeff Wells is in charge of the event planning and will no doubt create a fitting remembrance ceremony (Mr. Wells contact information is below).

The Tennessee Wars Commission has spent the last three years in creating the book, *Ready To Die For Liberty, Tennessee United States Colored Troops in the Civil War*. I have today received the first draft copy of the booklet and have made a few corrections for the printers. When those corrections are addressed the Wars Commission will begin the printing of 5,000 copies for distribution to all Tennessee Schools and libraries. I am hopeful that the booklets will be printed in the next few weeks and I would suggest, as I have for several years, that it be included and premiered at the Fort Pillow Tennessee Sesquicentennial event on 2014. The Wars Commission is funding research at the National Archives in Washington for the names of the USCT who were involved (killed and/or missing) in the Fort Pillow engagement and hopefully we will have those names by the 150th memorial event.

All questions on the Tennessee State Park commemorative ceremonies and plans for the Fort Pillow event should be addressed to Mr. Jeff Wells at: Jeff.Wells@tn.gov or call his office at 615: 532-0031.

As Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission I would be honored to attend the Fort Pillow Commemoration event now in the planning stages and Tennessee Historical Commission Director Patrick McIntyre is also very interested in participating.

I have also attached an earlier version DRAFT COPY of our USCT booklet. This is not the current version being printed and I will be glad to send you a copy when they are ready.

If I can be of further assistance please advise.