

CRESCENT CITY

SOLDIERS

MILITARY MONUMENTS  
OF NEW ORLEANS

Kevin J. Bozant

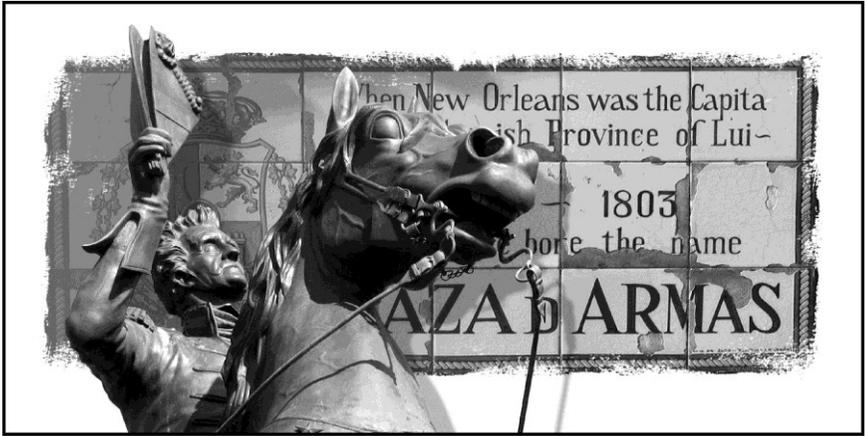
# **CRESCENT CITY SOLDIERS**

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Po-Boy Press - New Orleans



## **CRESCENT CITY SOLDIERS**

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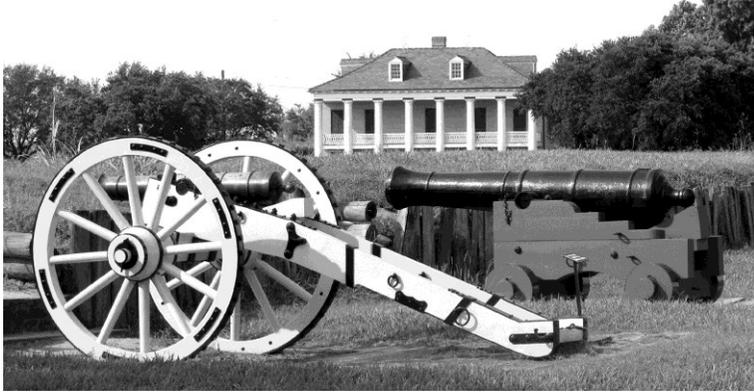
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## INTRODUCTION

In *Crescent City Soldiers*, author Kevin J. Bozant surveys over 125 military monuments, memorials and markers located throughout the greater New Orleans area. This 156-page volume is generously illustrated with 200 photographs and includes the Central Business District, Chalmette, Vieux Carré, Lakeview, Metairie, Ninth Ward, Mid-City, Faubourg Tremé and the entire Uptown District.

The beautiful neighborhood parks, neutral grounds and historic cemeteries of New Orleans reveal an impressive collection of enduring tributes to local, national and international military heroes honoring their service and courage in the name of peace and liberty.

Each monument is accompanied by brief, informative text describing its meaning and military significance. In addition, neighborhood and street addresses are provided which can be easily located via your smart phone map application.

You will also find information on military museums, forts and various insignia of veterans organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of the American Revolution as well as the United States Daughters 1776-1812.

This book includes some of the earliest memorials honoring soldiers who served during the American Revolution up to the recent unveiling of the Louisiana Submariner Memorial.

An informative index organizes the various monuments and memorials into a chronological list of engagements beginning with the Revolutionary War and leading up to recent actions in the Middle East.

Join this patriotic excursion exploring our military monuments and memorials which pay silent testimony to the valiant men and women who so courageously defended our nation.

**“Above the far distant battlefields ...”**



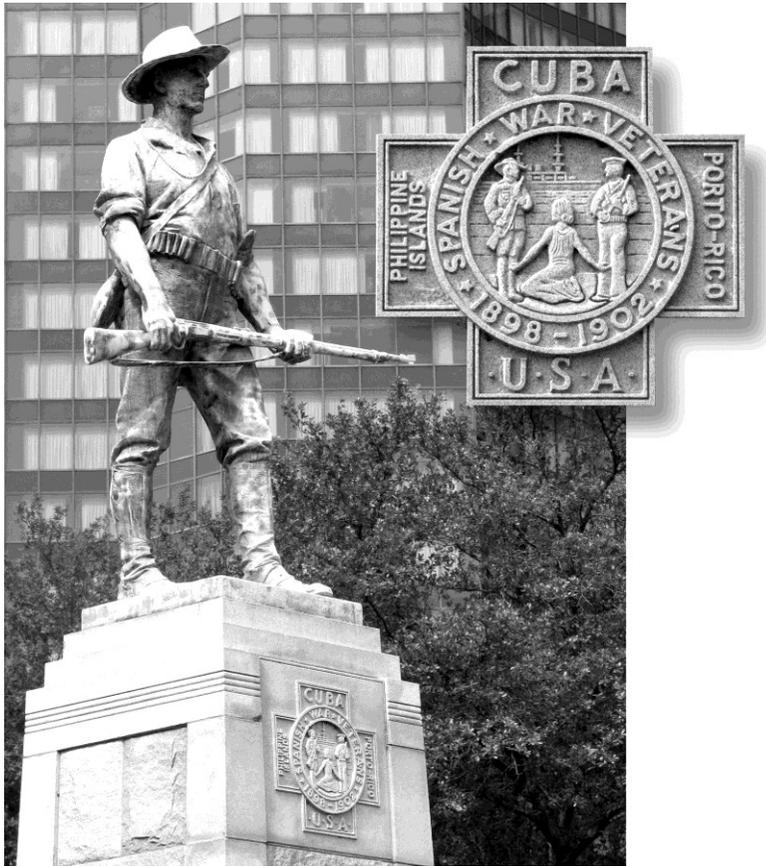
**ROBERT E. LEE MONUMENT**  
**Lee Circle - St. Charles and Howard Avenues**  
**The Robert E. Lee Monument Association**  
**Alexander Doyle - February 22, 1884**  
**Henry Bernard Bronze Manufacturing Company**  
**Rededicated: January 19, 1954**

This beautiful Doric column is topped off by a bronze statue of General Robert E. Lee. Legend suggests that Lee faces the north because he believed that you should never turn your back on the enemy.

Lee is dressed in his uniform, with his arms crossed over his chest. A scabbard and sword hang at his left side. Most people are not aware that there was an interior spiral staircase leading to the marble drum just beneath the statue where vertical apertures provided a beautiful view of New Orleans. The monument was completed in 1884 and dedicated on George Washington's Birthday.

*“His arms are folded on that breast that never knew fear ...”*

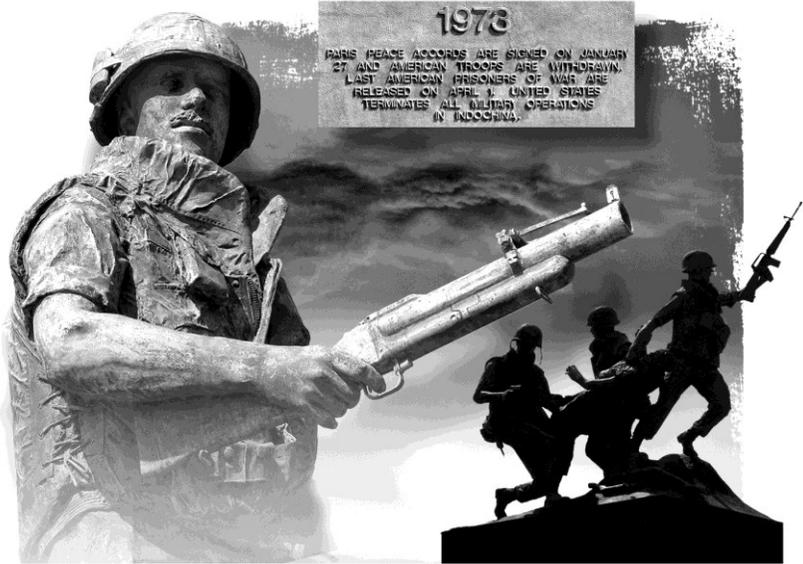
**- George Washington Cable**



**“THE HIKER”  
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERANS MONUMENT  
Poydras Street and Loyola Avenue Neutral Ground  
Louisiana Spanish-American War Monument Commission  
May 30, 1939**

This impressive bronze statue on a granite base is a tribute to the sons of Louisiana who fought in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the China Relief Expedition from 1898-1902. It was originally located at N. Claiborne Avenue and Canal Street. The 1906 original was created by Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson and is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Gorham Manufacturing Company bought the rights and cast some 50 copies for cities throughout the United States. The standing soldier is depicted in military uniform with campaign hat, knee-high boots, canteen and an ammunition belt. He holds a classic Krag-Jørgensen rifle with both hands. The emblem relief illustrates a kneeling female figure before a soldier and a sailor. Soldiers who fought these wars called themselves “hikers” due to their long sweltering treks through the jungles.

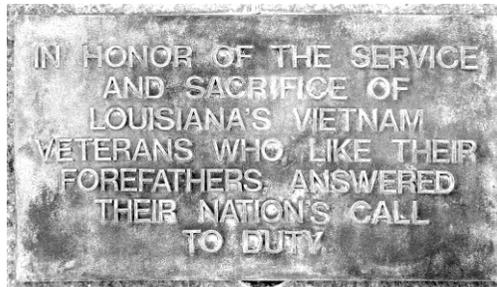
## “Service and Sacrifice”



### **VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL Superdome - 1500 Sugar Bowl Drive William D. Ludwig - November 11, 1984**

This seven-foot bronze sculpture depicts three soldiers carrying a wounded comrade from the battlefield. The wounded man has a large bandage over his head and left eye. All of the soldiers wear combat fatigues and flak jackets. One soldier is holding a Springfield M79, 40 mm grenade launcher which American soldiers nicknamed the “Thumper.”

A series of plaques on an adjacent wall list significant events in the history of the Vietnam War. The names of the state’s 881 soldiers killed in Vietnam are enclosed inside the base. The monument was commissioned by the Louisiana Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and is maintained by American Legion Post 397.



## **“The Maid of Orleans”**



**JOAN OF ARC EQUESTRIAN STATUE**  
**New Place De France - Decatur and St. Philip Streets**  
**Emmanuel Fremiet - 1880 - Place des Pyramids - Paris**  
**Copy Presented to New Orleans: April 18, 1964**  
**Erected: October 25, 1972 - Relocated: 1999**

Joan of Arc  
Maid of Orleans - 1412-1431  
A Gift from the People of France to the Citizens of New Orleans  
- **Monument Inscription**



**“Old Hickory”**

*“... no man has ever earned for himself a dearer or more enduring place in the popular regard of our Southern people, and the equestrian statue ... is but the substantial embodiment of a peoples’ gratitude, expressed in bronze and granite.”*

**- Inauguration of the Equestrian Statue of  
General Andrew Jackson - 1856**



**GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON EQUESTRIAN STATUE  
Jackson Square - 700 Decatur Street  
Jackson Monument Association - February 9, 1856  
Original Casting - Lafayette Park - Washington D.C.  
Clark Mills - January 8, 1853**

**“Try Us”**



**BATTALION WASHINGTON ARTILLERY CENOTAPH  
Metairie Cemetery - 5100 Pontchartrain Boulevard - Lakewood  
George Doyle - February 22, 1880 - Section 125  
Cenotaph designed by: Charles A. Orleans**

This 32-foot cenotaph made of New England granite, is a memorial to the members of the Washington Artillery, the second oldest fighting unit in the United States. The artilleryman, by George Doyle, captures the likeness of Colonel Chief J. B. Walton, unit commander at the time. The base lists the names of members who gave their lives in active service, as well as many of the Artillery's engagements including the Civil War, Mexican War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The monument features granite replicas of Civil War mortars and cannon balls and includes four prominent symbols important to the Washington Artillery; a laurel wreath tiger, sculpture of Washington, the seal of Louisiana and the seal of the Washington Artillery.

**“His life was one long sacrifice ...”**



**GENERAL ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON**  
**Army of Tennessee - Louisiana Division Tumulus**  
**Alexander Doyle - 1887**

*“In honor now our great Captain rests; A bereaved people mourn him.”*  
**- Epitaph by John Dimitry**

This magnificent ten-foot bronze statue of General Albert Sidney Johnston stands guard at the original entrance to Metairie Cemetery. Mounted high atop the tumulus of the Army of Tennessee, Louisiana Division, Johnston is riding his horse, Fire Eater, into battle at Shiloh on April 6, 1862. He was killed early in the battle when a bullet caught the back of his knee and he bled to death. He had just sent his surgeon off to care for some wounded Federal troops. General P.G.T. Beauregard took command of the battle.

There is a moving elegy to Johnston by John Dimitry inscribed on the rear wall. The General was temporarily buried here but his body was eventually secreted away to the Texas State Cemetery in Austin after the war.

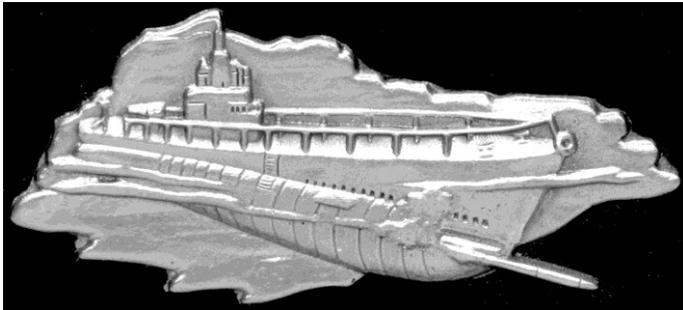
## Still On Patrol



**LOUISIANA SUBMARINER MEMORIAL  
Veterans Memorial and Causeway Boulevards  
Photographed: February 23, 2013  
Dedication: March 9, 2013**

This memorial is dedicated to the 3,505 American submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country. The United States lost 52 submarines during World War II. The Redfish Base Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans sponsored this memorial to the U.S.S. Golet (SS-361), one of the 52 boats now on eternal patrol.

The U.S.S. Golet was built by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company of Wisconsin and launched on August 1, 1943. Under the command of LCDR. James S. Clark, the Golet was sunk by depth charges on June 14, 1944, with a loss of 82 American sailors. A plaque on board read: "This fighting ship sponsored and made possible by war bond purchases by the people of Shreveport."



*"We shall never forget that it was our submarines  
that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets  
replaced losses and repaired wounds."*  
- Fleet Admiral C. W. Nimitz, U. S. N

## “In Flanders Fields”



**AMERICAN LEGION WWI MONUMENT**  
**Dumaine Street Entrance and City Park Avenue - City Park**  
**American Legion of New Orleans - May 29, 1921**

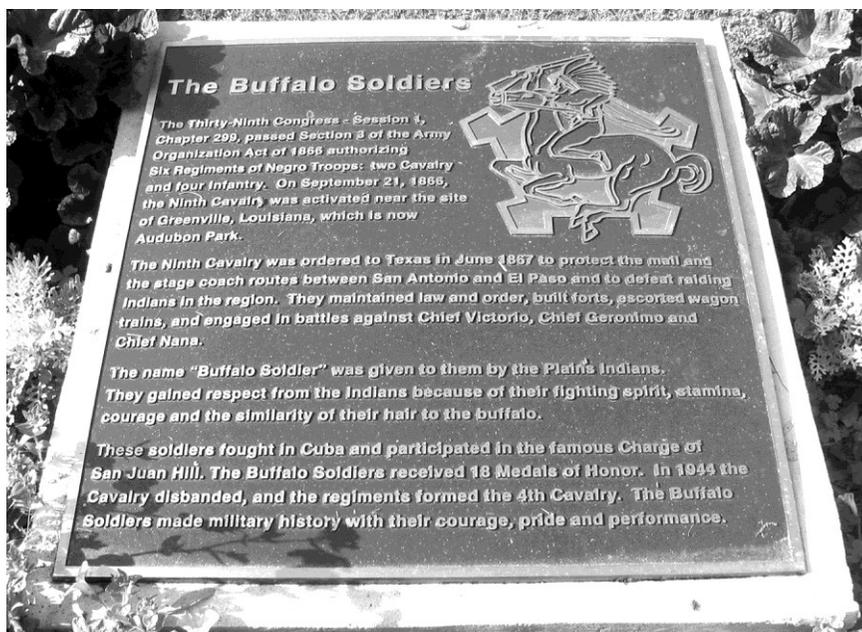
*“To you from failing hands we throw  
the torch; be yours to hold it high!”*

**- Inscription from the poem: *In Flanders Fields*  
by John McCrae**

This 12-foot concrete and granite shaft was erected in City Park by the American Legion of New Orleans as a tribute to Louisiana soldiers who died in World War I and are buried in Flanders. The monument includes a phrase from John McCrae’s famous poem, “*In Flanders Fields.*” The base of the monument was originally surrounded by a garden of poppies which grew across the battlefields of Belgium. The crest includes emblems of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Aviation Services and features the dramatic faces of four soldiers.

In memory of our comrades who made the supreme sacrifice.  
**- Monument Inscription**

## “We Can, We Will”



### **BUFFALO SOLDIERS MARKER Audubon Park Entrance on St. Charles Avenue**

On July 28, 1866, an act of Congress finally allowed African Americans to officially join the Regular Army. Congress permitted the creation of six regiments “composed of colored men.” On August 3, 1866, Major General Philip Sheridan was authorized to raise one regiment of colored men to be called the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the United States Cavalry. The regiment was organized in New Orleans near what is now Audubon Park. They enlisted for five years at \$10–\$13 per month.

The regiment was eventually dubbed the “Buffalo Soldiers” by Native Americans who were impressed by their fighting skills. The regiment’s motto is, “We Can, We Will.”

Many of the Buffalo Soldiers are buried in the Chalmette National Cemetery adjacent to the Chalmette Battlefield.

The Thirty-Ninth Congress – Session 1, Chapter 299, passed Section 3 of the Army Organization Act of 1866 authorizing

Six Regiments of Negro Troops: two cavalry and four infantry.

On September 21, 1866, the Ninth Cavalry was activated near the site of Greenville, Louisiana, which is now Audubon Park.

**- Monument Inscription**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kevin J. Bozant was born in the Upper 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans – as luck would have it – just a few blocks from Huerstel’s Bar and Little Pete’s Seafood Restaurant. He is a local author, photographer and digital graphic designer for his publishing company, Po-Boy Press – New Orleans. His professional experience includes Warner Brothers, CW and ABC television affiliates. Kevin specialized in sales, marketing, promotional graphics and special events coordination. He eventually became senior graphic designer for the news, sports and weather departments. He was font operator for fifteen seasons of *Friday Night Football* as well as *Saints Sideline* with Ed Daniels. Kevin provided technical assistance on location shoots for *Real New Orleans* with Ronnie Virgets, *Crescent City Country* with Kim Carson, co-produced *New Orleans after Midnight* with Bernie Cyrus and developed and co-produced *The Southern Garden* for Vitascope Television. He also served as studio graphics manager and question writer for Brandon Tartikoff’s popular New Orleans trivia game show *N.O. It Alls*.

Kevin showcased his warped opinion of local politics and culture as writer and editor of the “Crescent City Crier” a political cartoon published by Gambit Weekly. He is author and editor of *Port & Burgundy 1840-1990: A Pictorial History* covering 150 years of St. Paul German Lutheran Church and Faubourg Marigny; *Quaint Essential New Orleans: A Crescent City Lexicon*; *African American New Orleans: a Guide to 100 Civil Rights, Culture and Jazz Sites*; *Crescent City Soldiers: Military Monuments of New Orleans* as well as *Music Street New Orleans: A Guide to 200 Jazz, Rock and Rhythm & Blues Sites*.

Kevin’s favorite cultural experience was serving as personal assistant to Dr. Momus Alexander Morgus for his Halloween appearances at the Audubon Zoo.

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