

Dedication of Robert Bollie Stanley Military Style Marker, 2019

Emma-Lou, Invocation: Eternal God, with hearts filled with love and gratitude, we gather to ask Thy blessing on this marker placed in honor of Robert Bollie Stanley, a World War I Patriot.

The unequalled liberties enjoyed in America today are the legacy of brave, strong patriots. Their deep faith and belief in Thy guidance, together with the hope of living in freedom, fortified them throughout the Great War.

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for Thy many blessings and ask that Thy Holy Spirit be with us always. May we never forget those who fought for the preservation of democracy.

Amen.

Norma, Historian: Robert Bollie Stanley was born and raised in Shallotte. He was called to duty for World War I on March 29, 1918, training in Camp Grant, Illinois. Pvt Stanley served with the 92nd Division, nicknamed the “Buffalo Soldiers” in honor of African American troops who served in the American West after the Civil War. There were only two divisions in World War I having African American combat units, the 92nd “Buffalo Soldiers” and the 93rd “Blue Hat” Divisions. Robert Stanley was one of only nine known African American men from Brunswick County who served in a combat position.

During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, on October 29, 1918, Pvt Stanley was captured by the enemy. He was released about a month later, on November 27, 1918. Pvt Stanley returned to America on March 24, 1919, with his right leg amputated at the thigh. He was discharged from the US Army on August 25, 1919, with a 95% disability.

Robert Bollie Stanley married and raised several children. He was laid to rest on September 22, 1961, at age 66.

Dedication of Marker

Carol, Regent: In remembering the past, we honor the men and women who gave their lives for the preservation of our freedoms and future.

Emma-Lou, Chaplain: Further, we thank Thee for the life of this World War I Patriot, Robert Bollie Stanley, whose service to country and heroic sacrifices aided and advanced the cause of democracy. Help us recognize that fidelity and integrity must guard always the heritage bequeathed by those who had everything to lose.

Amen.

Carol, Regent: Help us to be worthy of our noble dead.

Emma-Lou, Chaplain: Almighty God bless our country. May we, its citizens, be thankful for the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us. Keep our country, home and family under Thy loving protection.

Amen.

Norma, Response: History tells us that what is needed today is not just a show of greatness and a parade of power, but a dedication to great ideals and high endeavor.

Carol, Regent: Therefore, we the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the members of Brunswick Town Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, now dedicate this marker in grateful recognition of the service of Robert Bollie Stanley, a Patriot of World War I.

Unveiling of Marker

Norma: In honoring Robert Bollie Stanley, we also pay tribute to all men and women who have served our country with integrity and devotion.

We dedicate ourselves anew to a faithful stewardship of the blessings we enjoy today.

Emma-Lou, Chaplain: Now may grace, mercy, and love abide with us all, now and ever more.

Amen.

Taps