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Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve News Release

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National Park Service Sets Schedule for Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial in January 2015

CHALMETTE, LA.: The National Park Service and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve will commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans in early January 2015. The battle, fought at what is now Chalmette Battlefield and one of Jean Lafitte's six south Louisiana sites, occurred on January 8, 1815, and was the last major battle in the War of 1812. Nearly a thousand living history experts in period dress are expected to participate in activities, programs, and reenactments throughout the area during the bicentennial week.

National Park Service events are as follows. All National Park Service events are free and open to the public. A detailed schedule of events will be available on the park website by mid-December.

Wednesday, January 7 – Jackson Square, New Orleans

- 11:00 a.m. Call to Arms. Reenactment of December 23, 2014, event.

Thursday, January 8 – Chalmette Battlefield

- 9:00-10:30 a.m. Commemoration Ceremony. Pay tribute to those involved in the Battle of New Orleans on the 200th anniversary of the battle. Speakers to be announced.
- 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Self-guided tours, scheduled ceremonies by military units and living history groups.
- 4:00 p.m. Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission ceremony, retiring of colors.

Friday, January 9 - Chalmette Battlefield

- 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Self-guided tours, cannon and musket firings, school field trip programs, "Battle of New Orleans University" (see below).

Saturday, January 10 - Chalmette Battlefield

- 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Self-guided tours, cannon and musket firings, "Battle of New Orleans University."
- 3:30-5:00 p.m. Reenactment of January 23, 1815, victory celebration.

New in 2015: "Battle of New Orleans University" programs on Friday and Saturday will present historical talks, musical performances, and demonstrations of military and civilian life in 1815, from period dancing to military drills and campfire cooking.

All public parking for all Thursday-Saturday battlefield events is at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex/Frederick J. Sigur Civic Center in the 8200 block of St. Bernard Highway in Chalmette. Free shuttle buses, including wheelchair-accessible buses, will provide transportation between the parking area and the battlefield.

More information is available at 504-281-0510 or www.nps.gov/jela/battle-of-new-orleans-bicentennial.htm. The Chalmette Battlefield Visitor Center at 8606 West St. Bernard Highway, Chalmette, is open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission to the site is free.

Information about education programs, reenactments, special exhibits, symposiums, and a calendar of the events commemorating the Battle of New Orleans bicentennial can be found on the official website for the State of Louisiana Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission www.battleofneworleans2015.com/

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