

"Once the idea of a republic has taken root, it cannot be extinguished."

-Simón Bolívar

Photo by BAR Photography via Flickr

Hispanic Heroes in Our Nation's Capital

Within its monumental core, Washington, DC, celebrates our nation's relationships with people and places across the world. Along Virginia Avenue, NW, stretching from Constitution Avenue to New Hampshire Avenue, are a series of statues commemorating the roles of Simón Bolívar, José de San Martín, Benito Juárez, José Gervasio Artigas, and Bernardo de Gálvez in the establishment of the independent nations of the Americas. They are gifts from the countries of Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela, which highlight the bond between the United States and the nations of Latin America.

The nations of Central, North, and South America have a strong connection in the fight for freedom and liberty in the United States. The American Revolutionary War and the resulting establishment of the United States of America triggered a series of events in the Americas, where colonies of the European powers saw another model and chose to govern themselves. Between 1808 and 1826, all of the Spanish holdings in the Americas, except for Cuba and Puerto Rico, would gain their independence in a series of military engagements known as the Wars of Independence. The liberators Artigas, Bolívar, Juárez, and San Martín were strongly influenced by the republican ideals in the

U.S. and Gálvez was directly involved with the success of the American Revolution as the Spanish Governor of Louisiana during the conflict.

The monuments to these heroes link our countries through a sense of independence and camaraderie. Nestled among buildings with further connections to our neighbors-- The Pan-American Health Organization, with its unique architectural form, and, the Organization of American States, supporting social and economic progress for the Americas for over 100 years - these statues tell a story of freedom movements in the Americas and their connection to the United States.

For more information about the National Mall and Memorial Parks, please contact

Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024-2000
202-233-3520
www.nps.gov/nama

To follow along the Hispanic Heroes Walking Tour with an audio narrative, please call 202-595-1730.



ABOVE: Simón Bolívar by Ricardo Acevedo Bernal
LEFT: "Artigas en la Ciudadela" by Juan Manuel Blanes



ABOVE: A newspaper print from 1942 depicts Benito Juárez, as a symbol of Mexican democracy.
RIGHT: Benito Juárez.
BOTH: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

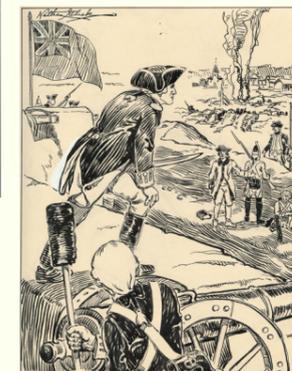


"La Independencia del Perú" by Juan Lepiani
José de San Martín's proclamation of the independence of Peru on July 28, 1821 in Lima, Peru



RIGHT: "Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, captures Fort Charlotte in Mobile from the British" Nathan H. Glick, 1780
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

LEFT: British flag captured by Gálvez during the Battle of Pensacola in the American War for Independence.
NPS PHOTO



Hispanic Highlights: Brothers in Revolution WARS OF INDEPENDENCE TIMELINE

- 1776:** British North American colonies declare independence from England
- 1804:** Liberation of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)
- 1810:** Creoles establish ruling juntas in Caracas, Venezuela; Santiago, Chile; and Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1810:** The priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla issues the "Grito de Dolores" in Mexico, which begins the War of Independence against Spain.
- 1811:** Venezuela and Paraguay declare independence from Spain.
- 1816:** Argentina declares independence.
- 1818:** Chile declares independence.
- 1819:** Colombia and Venezuela gain their independence.
- 1821:** Agustín de Iturbide declares Mexico independent with his Plan of Iguala.
- 1822-1823:** Iturbide is proclaimed emperor in Mexico.
- 1825:** Uruguay gains its independence from Argentina
- 1825:** Bolivia gains its independence



Andriod



iOS

The free National Mall app includes maps, site information, and custom tour routes!

Walking Tour Stop #1

18th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

José Gervasio Artigas
Champion of Uruguay

The Uruguayan revolutionary leader José Gervasio Artigas (1764-1850) joined the struggle for Latin American independence in Buenos Aires. With a small army of gauchos and volunteers, he defeated the Spanish at Las Piedras and besieged Montevideo. Artigas broke with the Argentine government when it failed to give autonomy to Uruguay in 1813. His army and a band of followers joined him in retreat to the interior of the country, known as the Banda Oriental (East Bank), where he proclaimed himself "Protector of Free Peoples" and gained control over most of the area. In 1820, Artigas fought Brazil's attempt to annex Uruguay but was defeated. He went into exile in Paraguay, where he lived the rest of his life in near obscurity. Uruguay finally won independence in 1825.

This bronze statue of Artigas, sometimes known as the "Gaucha Statue," was cast from an original by the Uruguayan sculptor Juan Manuel Blanes. Given to the United States by the Republic of Uruguay in 1950, it was paid for by contributions from Uruguayan school-children and citizens.

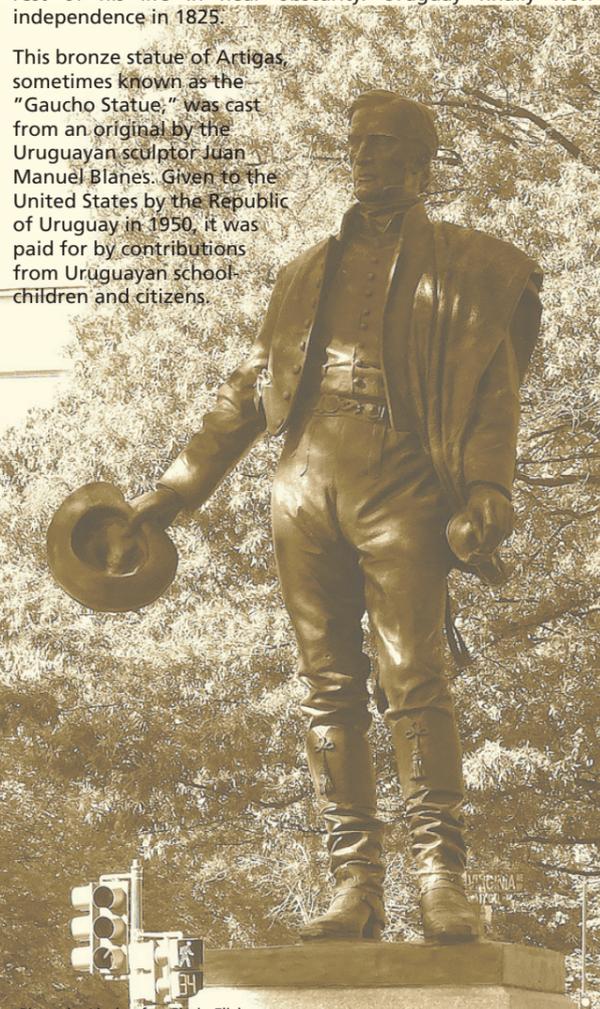


Photo by Lia (catface3) via Flickr

Walking Tour Stop #2

18th and C Streets at Virginia Avenue, NW



Photo by M.V. Jantzen via Flickr

Simón Bolívar
The Great Liberator

Revered as a revolutionary genius, Simón Bolívar (1783-1830) devoted his life to the cause of South American independence. During the early 1800s, he led his forces in more than 200 battles to defeat the Spanish rulers, winning freedom for Bolivia, Colombia (then including Panama), Ecuador, Peru, and his native Venezuela. Bolívar amassed great power throughout South America as he fought for his vision of Venezuela as a single republic. But his plan never succeeded, and by the time of his death in 1830 he was resented for his ambitious tactics. Today, however, he is considered the great liberator of South America. The Venezuelan government gave this 27-foot-tall bronze equestrian figure--designed by Felix W. de Weldon, sculptor of the Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima memorial) -- to the United States in 1959. The six water jets of the adjoining fountain symbolize the countries Bolívar helped lead to freedom.

Walking Tour Stop #3

17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

Organization of American States (OAS) Building

The Pan American Union was founded in 1910 in order to strengthen the relationship between the nations of the Americas. Later, it was renamed the Organization of American States. Today, twenty four nations have representatives that exchange information and work to peacefully resolve problems. Over the years, this neoclassical building attracted memorials to Latin America's liberators along Virginia Avenue. More memorials that celebrate Latin America's indigenous, artistic, literary, and political achievements are located throughout its grounds.



Photo by Kevin Morgan via Flickr

Walking Tour Stop #4

20th Street and Virginia Avenue, NW



Photo by Jeffrey Blarock via Flickr

José de San Martín
Hero of Argentina

José de San Martín (1778-1850) -- soldier, statesman, and the national hero of Argentina -- left his native country as a boy to be educated in Spain. There he pursued a career in the Spanish army. In 1812, at the age of 27, he returned to Buenos Aires to offer his services in the Argentine struggle for freedom. Like Simón Bolívar, San Martín sought the creation of an alliance of nations in South America. In a daring 24-day march, he led his army across the high Andes to overcome the Spanish and secure the liberation of Chile. He went on to fight for the independence of Peru.

The citizens of Argentina gave this equestrian monument to the United States in 1925. It is a copy of the original sculpture in Buenos Aires by Augustin-Alexandre Dumont. The bronze plaque behind the pedestal compares San Martín to the first president of the United States: "His name, like Washington, represents the American ideal of democracy, justice, and liberty."

Walking Tour Stop #5

Virginia Avenue near D and 22nd Streets, NW



Photo by Glynn Lowe via Flickr

Bernardo de Gálvez
Spanish Colonial Leader

As military governor of the Spanish province of Louisiana at the time of the American Revolution, Bernardo de Gálvez led his troops to decisive victory over the British that supported the colonies' fight for independence and strengthened the Spanish position in North America. Before Spain entered the war, Gálvez (1746-1786) supplied arms to the colonists. Then he forced the British out of west Florida in three vigorous campaigns, including the conquest of Pensacola in 1781. As a result, Spain gained control of the mouth of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Gálvez received a hero's welcome when he returned to Spain at the end of the war. Later, he returned to the United States as an adviser to treaty negotiations between Spain and the new nation. This bronze equestrian statue was a gift from King Juan Carlos of Spain in honor of the United States bicentennial in 1976.

Walking Tour Stop #6

525 23rd Street, NW



Photo by Scott S. via Flickr

Pan American World Health Organization Headquarters

An international conference founded the International Sanitary Bureau in 1902 to fight a series of epidemics that threatened the health of many Central and South Americans. In 1958, it became the Pan American World Health Organization. Regional offices throughout the Americas have enabled it to supply medical expertise to areas threatened by disease. Seals of the member nations along the south side of the building symbolize the multinational unity in exchanging medical information. In order to fit the building within the small plot of land, the Uruguayan architect Roman Fresnedo Siri raised it off the ground.



Walking Tour Stop #7

Virginia Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue, NW

Benito Juárez
Father of Modern Mexico

Benito Juárez (1806-1872) rose from impoverished beginnings to become a preeminent lawyer, revolutionary leader, and president of Mexico. Throughout his life he resolutely pursued his dream of rights for the common citizen. Forced into exile in New Orleans when Santa Anna took power in 1853, Juárez fought against the French Intervention and eventually helped overthrow the general's dictatorship. As minister of justice and later president of a nation beset by civil war and political turmoil, he pushed through sweeping reforms that curbed the broad influence of the Catholic Church and the military. When Napoleon III occupied Mexico City in 1864, Juárez refused to give up his presidency and returned to power when the French were forced out.

This 12-foot bronze figure, dedicated in 1969, was a gift from the Mexican people to the people of the United States. An urn of soil taken from Juárez's birthplace in San Pablo Guelatao, Oaxaca, Mexico, is buried at the back of the base. This monument was copied from an original that stands on a mountain in Oaxaca.



Photo by Wally Gobetz via Flickr