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Announcement from the Specialty Research Committee Chair Mary Anthony Startz

Revolutionary War Service added for Spanish Military on the Island of Cuba

We are pleased to announce that service for Spanish military supporting the Revolutionary War effort on the Island of Cuba is now accepted. The Executive Board approved the motion presented by Registrar General Rhonda Kren. Specialty Research National Chair, Mary Anthony Startz and National Vice Chair Spanish Research, Molly Fernández de Mesa researched the supporting documentation for the motion. Jeannine Dobbins, head of the DAR Genealogy Commission facilitated the presentation of the motion.

Previous service for regular military or militia in Cuba included only those participating in the Gálvez Expedition. There has been considerable scholarly research on Spain's role to support the colonists during the last century, and it is important to now consider the larger role played by Spain militarily, financially and strategically.

Havana was the central headquarters for the movement of funds and supplies for Bernardo de Gálvez and his commanders. Spanish money and supplies flowing through New Orleans under Gálvez's supervision became so extensive that Spanish money had completely boosted Continental currency and became fairly commonplace among the colonies.¹ After Spain regained Florida from the British in May of 1781, Spanish militia troops were put on guard in Cuba and American ships could more easily enter and leave the port of Havana trading and taking

¹ Chavez, Thomas E. *Spain and the Independence of the United States* Albuquerque University of New Mexico Press, 2002 page 108

supplies from iron, gun powder, flour and food back to the colonies. Ships went to and from many important east coast ports.

A partial list of Cuban Patriots who served during the period of June 1779 until September 1783 will be available on the Specialty Research Spanish Patriots landing page along with instructions to locate the digital version of service records in the military archive of Spain from Simancas. This list was previously published in parts February through June 2006 in the online journal Somos Primos. <http://www.somosprimos.com/#ISSUES>

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