

Evergreen Negro Cemetery

Final Resting Place of Buffalo Soldiers, WWI Veterans and Former Slaves

Evergreen Negro Cemetery presently consists of approximately 5.5 acres off I-10 East at Lockwood Dr. and Market Street in the Fifth Ward. A. K. Kelly, (a former slave) Edward Lee, and W. B. Zinkey established the burial ground around 1893. In the 1960's several actions destroyed much of the Cemetery. The State of Texas, City of Houston, and Harris County authorized the widening of Lockwood Drive and the construction of IH-10. Lockwood was extended from Sonora to Liberty and ran directly through the cemetery. This resulted in the removal and disinterment of 490 paupers and unknown persons to make way for the current street. The disinterred remains were re-interred at other established cemeteries. Johnson's Funeral Home was awarded the contract for these activities. Though once abandoned, neglected, and overrun with criminal activity, efforts today are underway for the full preservation and restoration of this historical site.

Cooperative partnerships and volunteers have a vision and purpose in seeing the Evergreen Negro Cemetery as a historic place where they can make a difference. We envision a place where Art, History, Science, and Technology merge to create a place where we can all make a mark in history, while immersing ourselves in whatever it is we love most.

We are collectively charged with the singularly unique and honorable opportunity to create an indelible tribute to those who served our country with pride, valor, and determination in spite of daunting circumstances of poverty and racism.

At least 17 former slaves, 12 identified "*Buffalo Soldiers*" who are so distinguished by being the 9th and 10th Calvary Units and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments. This nickname, "*Buffalo Soldiers*", attributed to the Cheyenne Indians because of the 10th Calvary's fierce fighting abilities. Subsequently, "*Buffalo Soldier*" became the generic term for all African-American soldiers

What's our next charge? Instituting a commemorative celebration for those Soldiers scattered among the ruins of our abandoned, neglected and forgotten cemeteries, in Texas, across the United States and eventually International.

The Annual Veteran's Cultural Heritage Celebration(VCHC) is our appointed obligation. Thank you for sharing this day of celebration and remembering our historic past with us.

Sincerely,

Project RESPECT Staff