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-San Angelo, Texas

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SACAC - Buffalo Soldier

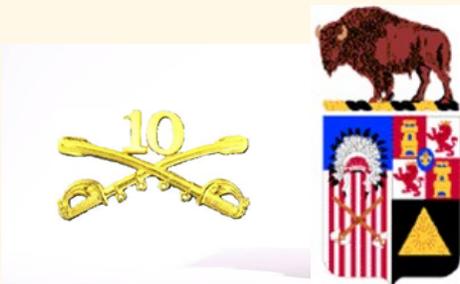
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San Angelo Cultural Affairs Council

Buffalo Soldier Statue



Tracking Victorio, by Don Stivers

Buffalo Soldier

Statue ~

A group of citizens is committed to raising funds for a sculpture to honor the contributions of the Buffalo Soldier.

They invite you to join them.



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The Redoubtable Sergeant, by Don Stivers

Founding ~

At Fort Concho's founding in 1867, African-Americans had already served the United States in a volunteer military force from the American Revolution through the Civil War. In 1866, an Act of Congress formally established post-war regiments of black enlisted men. These included both infantry and cavalry units.



FORTCONCHO.COM

LIFE OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIER ~

Their nickname may have been given by Native Americans, either Cheyenne or Comanche. It became synonymous with all African-American soldiers.

Some were ex-slaves or their sons. Many were free men from all regions of the country. Black soldiers received the same pay and basic equipment as their white counterparts. However, they often suffered prejudice and discrimination along with the hardships of frontier military service.

Buffalo Soldiers arrived at Fort Concho in 1869 and served there until March of 1885. Much of their time was spent maintaining buildings, feeding stock and performing routine ceremonies. In the field they explored, mapped, scouted, and patrolled vast regions of West Texas. Black troops were critical to major campaigns including the Staked Plains Expedition of the 1870's and the Victorio Campaign 1878-1880.

LASTING IMPACT ~

Over a period of 16 years Fort Concho was, at one point, home for each regiment of the Buffalo Soldiers. Black troops comprised 50% of all enlisted men at Fort Concho. They served with distinction and had a substantial impact on the development of San Angelo. In 1875, Fort Concho became headquarters for the 10th Cavalry. In 1877, the fort became home to the first black graduate of West Point, Henry O. Flipper.

It is time to honor the service, hardship, and contribution of the Buffalo Soldier. It is time for a monument befitting their contribution to the heritage of our community.

