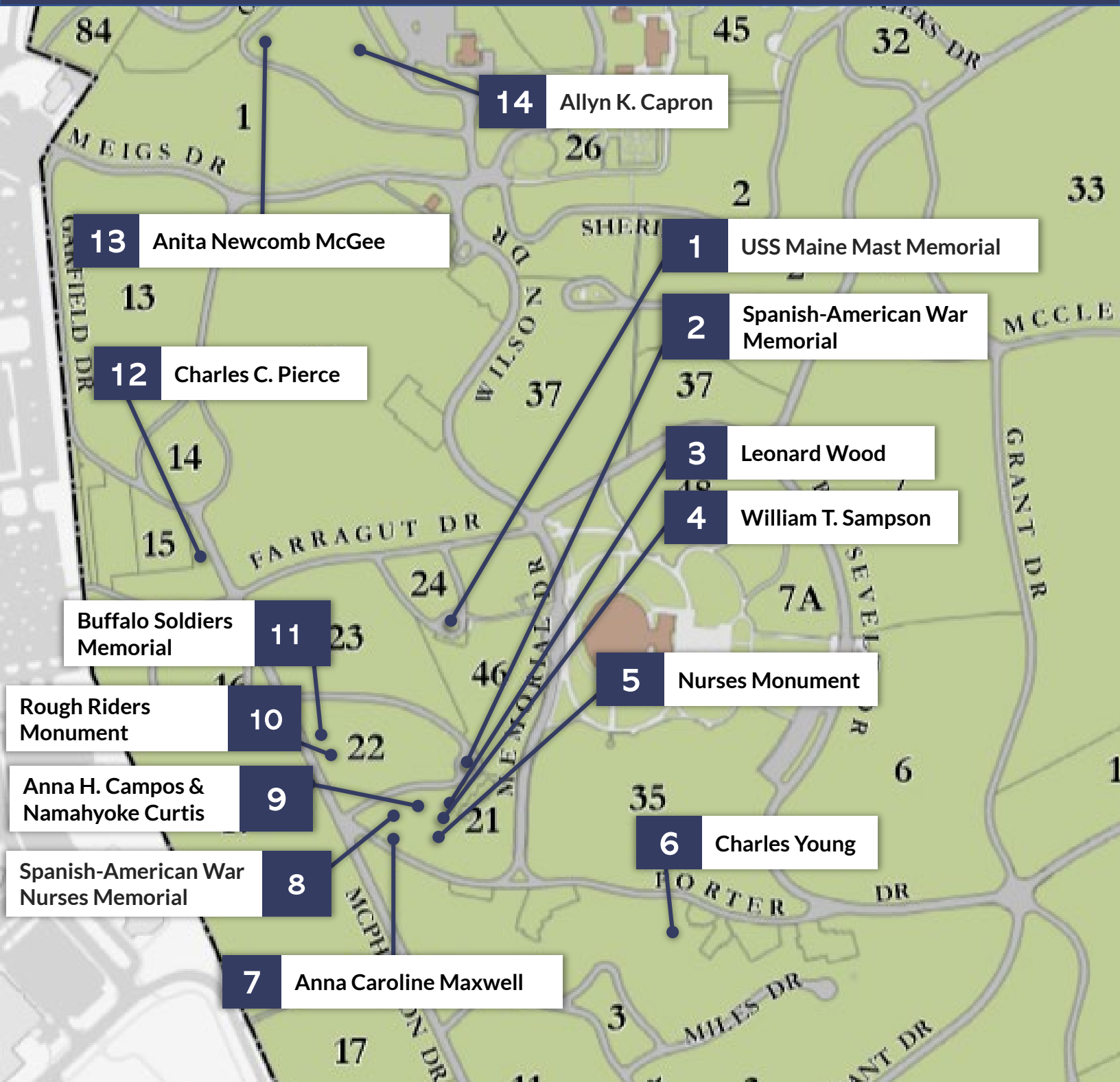


ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Long
Version



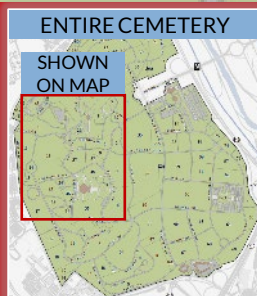
ENGAGE



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

@ArlingtonNational

#ANCEducation #ANCeduSpanAmWar



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Long
Version

Length: 1.2 miles

Starting Point: Section 24 (1 mile from Welcome Center)

Exertion Level: Moderate

There are three types of stops on this walking tour:



HONOR stops mark the gravesites of specific individuals.



REMEMBER stops commemorate events, ideas, or groups of people.



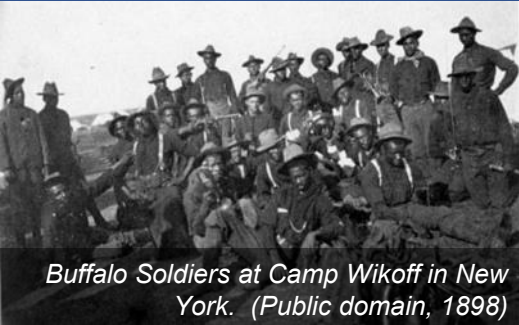
EXPLORE stops invite you to discover what this history means to you.

Why this tour? Arlington has more Spanish-American War memorials and gravesites than any other site in the United States. A shortened version of this tour is available.

1	USS Maine Mast Memorial	Section 24		
2	Spanish-American War Memorial	Section 21		
3	Major General Leonard Wood	Section 21, Grave S-10		
4	Rear Admiral William T. Sampson	Section 21, Grave S-9		
5	Nurses Monument	Section 21		
6	Colonel Charles Young	Section 3, Grave 1730-B		
7	Anna Caroline Maxwell	Section 21, Grave 16006		
8	Spanish-American War Nurses Memorial	Section 21		
9	Anna H. Campos & Namahyoke Curtis	Section 21, Graves 15986-A and 15999-A-1		
10	Rough Riders Monument	Section 22		
11	Buffalo Soldiers Memorial	Section 22		
12	Colonel Charles C. Pierce	Section 15A, Grave 7		
13	Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee	Section 1, Grave 526-B		
14	Captain Allyn K. Capron	Section 1, Grave 289		



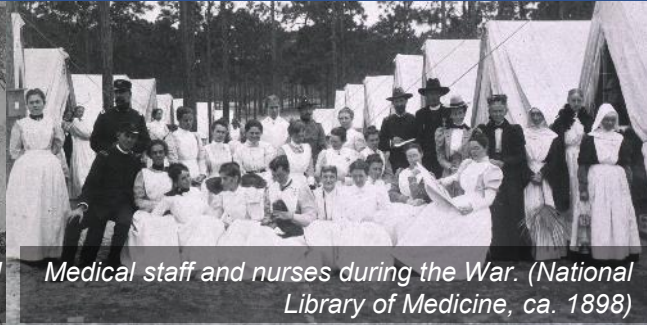
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



Buffalo Soldiers at Camp Wikoff in New York. (Public domain, 1898)



A soldier attended in a field hospital during the War. (LOC, 1898)



Medical staff and nurses during the War. (National Library of Medicine, ca. 1898)

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

On February 15, 1898, an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, ripped open the hull of the USS Maine, sinking the ship and killing more than 260 of the American sailors on board. The Maine had been sent to Cuba to protect American interests during the Cuban fight for independence from Spain. Historians are still unsure what caused the explosion, but popular sentiment in the U.S. at the time blamed the Spanish.

Fueled by concern for the condition of the Cuban rebels, general opposition to European colonization of the Americas, and public outrage over the destruction of the Maine, the U.S. declared war on April 25.

The war did not last long. In the Pacific, ships of the U.S. Navy sailed into Manila Bay and quickly destroyed the Spanish squadron stationed there. Then U.S. Army forces made up of volunteers and regulars charged the San Juan Heights of Cuba, seized control of the island and forced the Spanish fleet stationed in the Caribbean out to sea, where ships of the U.S. Navy quickly sank them. By August 12, the Spanish had surrendered, and the war was effectively over.

Although the war was over in less than four months, it had tremendous historical impact. The U.S. acquired international holdings, established itself as the dominant nation in the Western hemisphere, and began a new era as one of the major world powers.

Treaty: Treaty of Paris, signed December 10, 1898

New Territories: Cuba became independent, Guam and Puerto Rico were ceded to the U.S., and the U.S. bought the Philippines for \$20 million

U.S. Casualties: 385 combat fatalities (not including the sailors killed on the Maine), over 2,000 died from disease

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

ANC contains more monuments and burial sites related to the Spanish-American War than any other location in the continental United States. This walking tour will guide you to these sites including:

- The USS Maine Mast Memorial featuring the mast of the Maine that was recovered from Havana Harbor, transported to Arlington, and dedicated as a memorial in 1915
- The Spanish-American War Memorial
- Graves of individuals who played prominent roles in the War, including leaders, nurses, and repatriated remains of victims of the Maine explosion (both identified and unidentified)
- Additional monuments and memorials to key groups who influenced the outcomes of the War.

★ USS MAINE MAST MEMORIAL ★



WALKING TOUR STOP 1 Section 24

Dedication of the USS Maine Mast Memorial on May 30, 1915. (LOC)



ENGAGE
Social Media
Connection #1

HISTORY: The USS Maine Mast Memorial overlooks the remains of those who died when the ship exploded off the coast of Havana, Cuba on February 15, 1898. Calls to raise the ship heightened on the 10th anniversary of the explosion, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated its plan to raise the Maine in July of 1910. In March of 1912 the Navy transported the mast of the ship to Arlington, where it was placed onto a granite base meant to represent the turret of a battleship. The names of those who died in the explosion were inscribed onto the base. The monument is located on Sigsbee Drive, named after Admiral Charles Dwight Sigsbee, who was in command of the vessel when it exploded; Admiral Sigsbee survived the sinking. Located behind the memorial are two bronze mortars captured from the Spanish during the war. The memorial was unveiled and dedicated by President Woodrow Wilson in a large public ceremony held on May 30th, 1915.

Welded into the door of the base is half of the bell that was on the Maine when it exploded. The inscription on the bell reads: "USS MAINE, Navy Yard, New York, 1894". Above the door that leads into the base is an inscription that reads: "*Erected in Memory of the Officers and Men Who Lost Their Lives in the Destruction Of the USS Maine at Havana, Cuba, February Fifteenth MDCCCXCVIII.*"

Bell from the USS Maine. (ANC/ Elizabeth Fraser 2018)



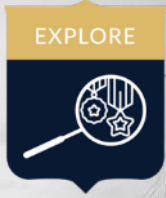
Maine Memorial base. (ANC Education/Leah Baer, 2019)

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

The Memorial is directly west of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Memorial Amphitheater.



REMEMBERING THE MAINE



Many Americans recall the phrase “Remember the Maine!” from history lessons that focused on how some newspapers in 1898 sensationalized the explosion of the U.S.S. Maine to build public support for a war with Spain. Today, take the time to “remember the Maine” in a different way, by learning about the ship and the people who lost their lives on it.

What was the Maine like?

The Maine was an armored cruiser, 324’4” long and 57’ wide, made of steel and divided into 214 watertight compartments. It was powered by two steam engines with a total designed output of 9,293 horsepower. It carried four 10-inch guns, six 6-inch guns, seven 57-millimeter anti-torpedo boat guns, and four 18-inch above-water torpedo tubes.

Who died on the Maine?

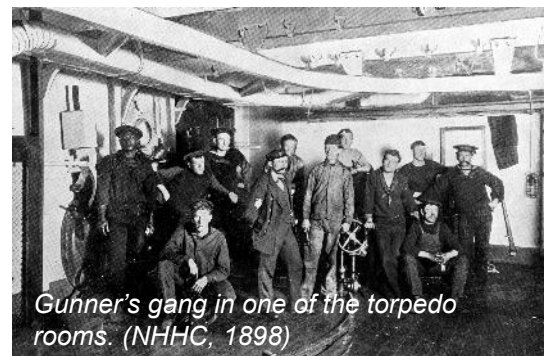
Accounts differ, but at least 260 men were killed as a result of the explosion. 102 were saved. The explosion was on the forward part of the ship, below where the enlisted men were sleeping. This meant only 2 of the victims were officers – all the others were enlisted.

Where were they from?

Read the names of the victims on the side of the U.S.S. Maine Memorial. Notice how many different ethnic backgrounds are represented on this very diverse crew. Some crew joined when the ship was in port in Japan, China, and the Philippines. There were also 30 African Americans onboard. This diverse crew reflected the way America’s population was rapidly changing at the time.

What were their lives like?

Look at the different jobs listed with the names: coxswain, landsman, fireman, coal passer, oiler, and more. Look up at least one of these jobs and explain it to a friend. Look at this picture of the Maine’s baseball team, taken the month before the explosion. What would it have been like to live and work on a ship like this?



Maine baseball team, ca 1898. All members were killed in the explosion, except JH Bloomer (left, back row). (LOC)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL



WALKING TOUR STOP 2 Section 21

In April of 1900, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America undertook the responsibility of constructing a monument to those who died during the Spanish-American War. The organization created an Executive Committee for the Spanish War Memorial and Marker and elected Winifred Lee Brent Lyster as Chairman. In March of 1901, the design created by the committee received approval from the Quartermaster General and the Secretary of War. The government tasked the Society with raising the funds for the memorial. The dedication ceremony occurred on May 21st, 1902, with President Theodore Roosevelt delivering the main address. On October 11th, 1964 the National Society of Colonial Dames received permission to place a bronze tablet on the rear of the memorial, which reads:

*To The Glory Of God And In Grateful Remembrance
Of The Men And Women Of The Armed Forces Who
In This Century Gave Their Lives For Our Country
That Freedom Might Live*

On October 19th, 1964, the National Society of Colonial Dames placed a second bronze tablet at the memorial. This one reads:

In Honor of All Who Serve Our Country

The monument is approximately 50 feet tall. It is constructed of Barre Granite and takes the form of a Corinthian Column. On the top of the monument is a bronze eagle perched on top of a sphere constructed of Quincy Granite. At each corner of the base lies a black granite sphere. Along the border of the upper base are 44 bronze stars. On the rear of the monument are four guns mounted on concrete stands. The two inner guns are United States Naval Guns while the outer two are guns captured from Spanish coastal batteries.



*The Spanish-American War
Memorial, ca. 1918-1920. (LOC)*

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

*The Memorial is on Lawton Drive, south of the USS
Maine Memorial.*



MAJOR GENERAL LEONARD WOOD



WALKING TOUR STOP 3

Section 21, Grave S-10

BIRTH: October 9, 1860, Winchester, NH

DEATH: August 27, 1927, Boston, MA

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Leonard Wood was born in 1860 in New Hampshire to parents Charles and Caroline E. Wood. Growing up during the Civil War inspired Wood's desire to join the Army, but he adhered to his parents' demands and instead enrolled at Harvard Medical School. In 1888, while stationed in California, Wood met and later married Laura Condit Smith. The Woods had three children who all participated in the World War I effort.

CAREER: After obtaining his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1884, Wood decided to serve as a contract surgeon with the Army. He then obtained the rank of First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps. Wood earned a Medal of Honor for his actions during the Indian Wars. Wood then transferred to Washington, D.C. to become the personal physician to Presidents Grover Cleveland and William McKinley. Wood developed a strong friendship with Theodore Roosevelt. When the War with Spain erupted, Wood and Roosevelt organized the famous Rough Riders. After the war, President McKinley appointed Wood the Military Governor-General of Cuba, a post he held from 1899-1902.

LEGACY: Wood's expansive career reflected the trajectory of the U.S. from westward expansion to an imperial power. From 1910-1914 he served as the Chief of Staff of the Army, where he implemented reforms that would eventually prepare the U.S. Army for when it formally entered World War I in 1917. He also served as Governor of Moro Province from 1903-1906, and Governor-General of the Philippines from 1921-1927. His campaign for President in 1920 paved the way for a new era of high-ranking generals who sought careers in politics.



Portrait of Wood painted by John Singer Sargent in 1903. (Smithsonian)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

Wood's headstone lies directly behind the trees, with a view of the Spanish-American War Memorial.

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM T. SAMPSON



WALKING TOUR STOP 4 Section 21, Grave S-9

BIRTH: February 9, 1840, Palmyra, NY

DEATH: May 6, 1902, Washington, D.C.

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Born in 1840 in Palmyra, New York, William T. Sampson spent his childhood assisting his father with different infrastructural projects. As the oldest of seven children, Sampson could not afford to attend college, but a local man of considerable wealth contacted Congressman Edwin B. Morgan, who obtained a spot for Sampson at the United States Naval Academy. Sampson graduated first in his class four years later. He married Margaret Sexton Aldrich in 1863.

CAREER: Upon graduating in 1861, Sampson assisted in arming Union ships assigned to patrol the Potomac River. Sampson later joined the crew of Winfield Scott Schley aboard the USS Potomac. During the interim war period Sampson served as the Assistant Superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory and the Superintendent of the Navy. When the USS Maine exploded, President McKinley appointed Sampson to a Court of Inquiry assigned to assess the reason for the explosion. Sampson assumed command of the North Atlantic Squadron and monitored the blockade of strategic ports on the northern and southern coasts of Cuba.

On July 3, 1898, his squadron defeated the fleet of Spanish Admiral Cervera at the port of Santiago Harbor in Cuba. The next day he sent a famous message: "The Fleet under my command offers the nation a Fourth of July present, the whole of Cervera's Fleet."

LEGACY: Throughout his career, Sampson recognized the importance of scientific progress within the Navy and the construction of well-equipped coastal forts. The reforms he implemented allowed the Navy to prosper during the war and throughout the 20th century.



Sampson, ca. 1899. (LOC)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

Sampson's headstone is behind the evergreen trees and close to the gravesite of Wood. Note the members of Sampson's family interred in front of his headstone.



NURSES MEMORIAL



WALKING TOUR STOP 5

Middle of Section 21

Section 21 is sometimes known as the “Nurses Section” because it is the resting place of 653 nurses who heroically served in the U.S. Armed Forces throughout history, including many from the Spanish-American War.

Overlooking them is a white statue made from Tennessee marble. The figure, often called “The Spirit of Nursing,” is surrounded by evergreens and appears to gesture towards the rows of deceased nurses that lie before her. The figure is dressed simply with her hair pinned up, a practical style many nurses adopted while working. Frances Rich, later who served as a Navy WAVE (the women’s branch of the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II), sculpted the statue in 1938 initially to honor the nurses who died during their service in the Army or Navy. However, its meaning has since expanded to include all nurses who served in the Armed Forces.

The dedication ceremony occurred in 1938. On July 13, 1970, Navy Capt. Delores Cornelius, deputy director of the Navy Nurse Corps, requested authority to install a bronze plaque which reads:

*This Monument Was Erected in 1938
and Rededicated in 1971
To Commemorate Devoted Service
To Country and Humanity By
Army, Navy, and Air Force Nurses*



The Nurses Monument overlooks Section 21. (ANC, 2015)

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
WALKING TOUR

The Nurses Monument is on the south side of the trees.



COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG



WALKING TOUR STOP 6

Section 3, Grave 1730-B

BIRTH: March 12, 1864, Mays Lick, KY

DEATH: January 8, 1922, Lagos, Nigeria

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Charles Young was born into slavery in 1864 in Mays Lick, Kentucky. His father, Gabriel Young, escaped slavery and joined the 5th Regiment, U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery in February 1865. Shortly after his father's discharge in 1866, Young and his parents moved across the river to Ripley, Ohio. Young developed a deep admiration for learning and graduated from an integrated high school with academic honors. In 1884, Young entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1889 as West Point's third African American graduate.

CAREER: Young began his career as a member of the 9th Cavalry, one of the all-Black Army regiments that gained the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" during their time serving in the American West. When the Spanish-American War began, Young was temporarily promoted to Major of the 9th Battalion Ohio Volunteers, an all-Black unit. Young and his men were never deployed overseas, but he gained valuable command experience. In 1901 he sailed for the Philippines, where he was famed for his courage and leadership during jungle battles of the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). Young served in the Army until 1917, when he was medically retired and promoted to colonel, the first African American to achieve that rank in the U.S. Army.

LEGACY: Young persevered during a time of legal segregation to cultivate an illustrious legacy within the U.S. Army. He also became the first African American superintendent of a National Park, when he was appointed to manage and maintain Sequoia National Park in northern California in 1903. Young persevered during a time of racism and segregation to cultivate an illustrious career within the U.S. Army. He inspired young Army officers to pursue further training – including Benjamin O. Davis Sr. who became the first African American general in the Army.



Young in 1903. (LOC)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

When traveling down Porter towards Roosevelt, Young's headstone can be located on top of the hill directly underneath a tree. Unlike many African Americans of his era, Young was not interred in a segregated plot.



ANNA CAROLINE MAXWELL



WALKING TOUR STOP 7

Section 21, Grave 16006

BIRTH: March 14, 1851, Bristol, NY

DEATH: January 2, 1929, New York, NY

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Anna Caroline Maxwell was born in Bristol, NY in 1851 to John Eglinton and Diantha Caroline Maxwell. When she was a young child her family relocated to Canada. In 1874, she moved to Boston and eventually entered the Boston City Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1878. She graduated from the program in 1880.

CAREER: Maxwell served as the superintendent of nurses at hospitals in Montreal, Boston and New York. She accepted the job of creating a new training school for nurses at Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. This training school later became the Columbia University School of Nursing. At the beginning of the Spanish-American War, Maxwell petitioned the Surgeon General to allow her and her nurses to station themselves in U.S. military hospitals and implement sanitation reforms. Her 1914 textbook, *Practical Nursing*, shaped nursing practices in World War I and had a lasting impact on the field. For her service to soldiers during the Spanish-American War and World War I she is referred to as the "American Florence Nightingale."

LEGACY: Maxwell pioneered the nursing profession and its integration into U.S. military hospitals. She increased public awareness about the profession, which laid the foundation for a new wave of female nurses during the 20th century.



Maxwell while she was dean of the nursing school at Presbyterian Hospital (later Columbia University School of Nursing). (Public domain, ca. 1892-1921)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

Maxwell's grave is located to the right of the Spanish-American War Nurses Memorial, and adjacent to Porter Avenue. The verse on her headstone is a line from a poem by Samuel Valentine Cole called "Theodore Roosevelt."



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES MEMORIAL



WALKING TOUR STOP 8

Section 21



Klotho McGee, daughter of Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, beside the monument on May 2, 1905, the day of its dedication. (Public Domain)

The Spanish-American War was the first U.S. war in which nurses served as a special, quasi-military unit, and the first time in American history when nurses were fully accepted in military hospitals. Although no nurses were killed in combat, 140 died of typhoid and 13 from other diseases (including one, Clara Maass, who died of yellow fever after volunteering to be experimented upon by the Army).

The Society of Spanish-American War Nurses dedicated a monument to the memory of those brave women volunteers who nursed the wounded and sick during the Spanish-American War. Many of the nurses who served and lost their lives during the war are now buried near the monument in Section 21 of Arlington National Cemetery. The Maltese cross, the insignia of the Society of Spanish-American War Nurses, atop the large granite stone is dedicated to the memory of their "comrades."

Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, as president of the Society of Spanish-American War Nurses, is credited with directing the efforts to erect the Spanish-American War Nurses monument. Her daughter Klotho unveiled the monument and is pictured beside it on the day of its dedication on May 2, 1905.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

The Memorial is northwest of Maxwell's grave, near the corner of Lawton and Porter.

NURSING IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR



Nurses in the Spanish-American War would work 14-hour shifts with 20-minute lunch breaks. They provided their own uniforms, which they also had to launder and maintain. Duties included giving ice baths, dressing

wounds, preparing food, feeding soldiers, administering medicine, and attempting to maintain sanitary conditions for medical care in tents, fields, and overcrowded buildings. Many locations experienced nurse shortages that put more stress on the nurses they had. Some nurses worked until they were too ill to do so. The pay was railroad fare to the assigned location, \$30 a month, meals, and lodging (sometimes).

- Would you want this job?
- What kind of people would volunteer for this work?
- What character traits would make them successful?

Read the following statement from nurses Helen B. Schuler and Florence M. Kelley, describing the conditions at Sternberg Field Hospital at Fort Thomas, GA during the Spanish-American War:

"We had no disinfectant whatsoever to use. There was not even one wash basin in these wards for the nurses to wash their hands. At one time when there was a shortage of water for several days, we were requested "not wash at all." The three toilets which were supposed to be adequate for the needs of the 200 nurses, were over 500 feet away from their sleeping quarters. Every one of the nurses had contracted dysentery and under these fearfully unsanitary conditions, consider how inevitable it was, that the majority of the nurses left Sternberg Hospital Service with an intestinal condition which soon became chronic and which we shall suffer from the effects of, until the end of our life."

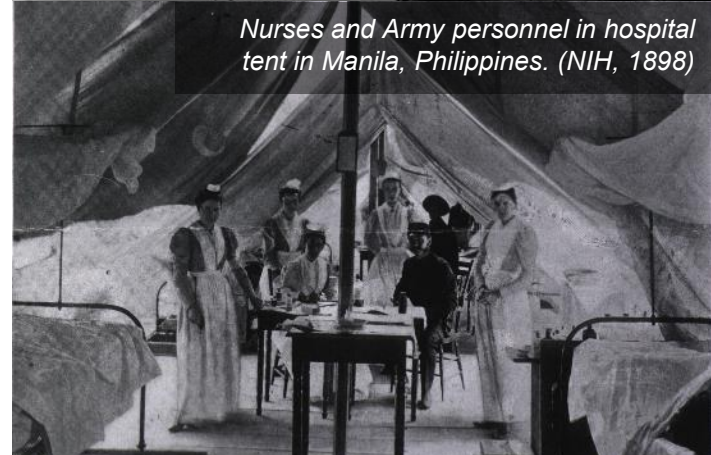
- Who was at greater risk in the Spanish-American War: Active-duty military personnel, or nurses and doctors?
- We often consider the sacrifices of veterans, who may return home with visible or invisible scars and wounds... but what about nurses? What scars and wounds might a war-time nurse carry home?



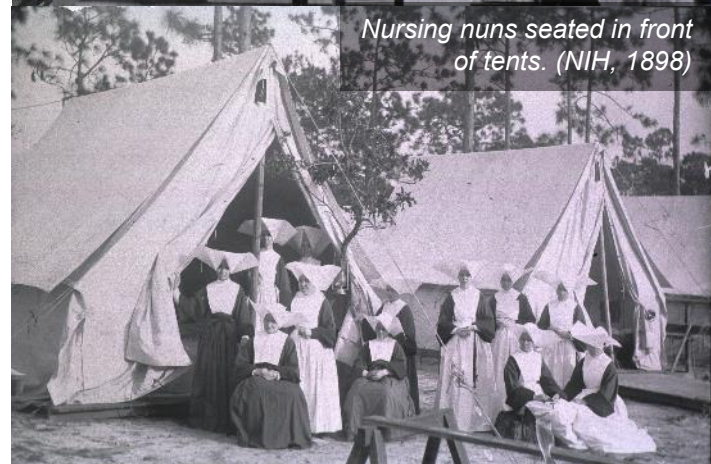
Social Media
Connection #2



Camp hospital in Chickamauga, Georgia. (Army Archives, ca. 1898)



Nurses and Army personnel in hospital tent in Manila, Philippines. (NIH, 1898)



Nursing nuns seated in front of tents. (NIH, 1898)



Nurses ready to leave New York in 1898 (NIH)



ANNA “ANITA” H. CAMPOS



WALKING TOUR STOP 9

Section 21, Graves 15986-A
and 15999-A-1

BIRTH: September 8th, 1859, Cumberland County, NJ

DEATH: September 2nd, 1899, Cuba

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Campos was born to farmers Andrew J. and Elizabeth Long. By 1880 she married Charles V. Campos, a Cuban native. Campos and her husband relocated to Cuba, where she gave birth to their son, Carlos Manuel Campos in January 1881. At some point before the war, the family returned to the United States.

CAREER: At the outbreak of the war, Anna Campos enlisted as a nurse. Prior to 1898 the military barred women from serving in any formal capacity, but the Spanish-American War facilitated the integration of female nurses into military hospitals.

LEGACY: Anna Campos was the first Spanish-American War nurse to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. She died in Cuba in 1899 as a result of malaria and was repatriated to Arlington, one of many nurses who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting disease, which many historians agree was “the real enemy” in the Spanish-American War. Campos and other prominent women strengthened the field of nursing within the military.



Campos' headstone. (ANC Education/Leah Baer, 2019)

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

When facing the Spanish-American War Nurses Memorial, Campos' is located to the left. Curtis' is in the row behind.

NAMAHYOKE (NAMAHA) CURTIS



Section 21,
Grave 15999-A-1

In the 1800s, Black women had fewer opportunities for formal nurse training than their white peers but still served as contract nurses during the war. Namahyoke Curtis was such a nurse.

In 1898, her husband Austin Maurice Curtis was superintendent of Freedman's Hospital in Washington DC

and she was assigned by the Surgeon General to recruit African American “immune” nurses. Immunity was not well understood and two of the recruited nurses died of typhoid in Cuba.

After serving in the war, Curtis served as a nurse after the Galveston hurricane (1900) and San Francisco earthquake (1906).

Like many people during this time, especially women and working class people, only a few details are known about the lives of Campos and Curtis. Many of these details come from government records (census data, birth records, marriage records, etc.) which often provide minimal detail.



WALKING TOUR STOP 10

Section 22

The “Rough Riders” became one of the best-known cavalry units in American history, though few people remember their official title, the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry. But mention the name “Rough Riders,” and visions come to mind of the charge up Kettle Hill, led by Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt. The Rough Riders served with distinction during the Spanish-American War. The monument, erected in 1906 by the members and friends of the regiment, overlooks a section filled from the dead of the War with Spain. The monument received its official dedication on April 12, 1907.

The large, dark-grey granite stone displays the insignia of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry on its west face. It also lists the battles in which the Rough Riders took part — Las Guasimas, San Juan, and Santiago. The names of all the officers and enlisted men of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry who lost their lives during the Spanish-American War are engraved on the monument as well.

The inscription on the monument reads:

*In Memory of
the Deceased Members
of the 1st U.S.
Volunteer Cavalry
Spanish-American War
Erected by the Members and
Friends of the Regiment
1906*



The Monument in 1912. (LOC)

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

WALKING TOUR

The Monument is located along McPherson Dr in the middle of Section 22.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL



WALKING TOUR STOP 11 Section 22

When facing the Rough Riders Monument, the Buffalo Soldier Memorial is to your left, under the Kousa Dogwood Memorial Tree.



A mural depicting the Buffalo Soldier regiments at the Battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba, July 1, 1898. (NPS)

Located next to the Rough Riders monument is a small memorial dedicated to the Buffalo Soldiers, a group of all-African American regiments (originally six regiments, then merged into four) established by Congress in 1866. Sources disagree on the origin of the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers," but it may have been given to the Black soldiers by Native American warriors during their service in the western states during the 1860s-1890s.

The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments were all deployed to Cuba in 1898. The monument notes the gallant efforts of those who participated in the Battle of San Juan Hill alongside Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders. All four regiments were noted for their fearless fighting in Cuba, where five Medals of Honor were earned.

This monument was placed in Arlington National Cemetery on July 1st, 1998 to commemorate the centennial of the Buffalo Soldiers' deployment to Cuba. The soldiers it commemorates, however, are interred in segregated sections of the cemetery. Allen Jones and Robert Coates, two soldiers who served in the 10th U.S. Cavalry and died while fighting in Cuba, are both interred in Section 23.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN SECTION 23 (SEGREGATED SECTION)



Grave of Allen Jones
Section 23, Grave 14870
When walking toward Jackson Circle, Jones' headstone is in the row directly adjacent to McPherson Ave. Starting from Farragut Ave, Jones' headstone is 14 to the right.



Grave of Robert Coates
Section 23, Grave 14867
When facing McPherson Ave., Coates' headstone is three to the right of Jones' headstone.

HONORING THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS



The Buffalo Soldiers' participation in the Spanish-American War was very controversial in the African American community at the time.

Some troops and citizens questioned whether they should fight for the U.S. government when African Americans were routinely discriminated against and deprived of their rights by federal and state laws. Others advocated that this was yet another opportunity to demonstrate loyalty and patriotism and "reaffirm our claims to equal liberty and protection" (editorial in the *Cleveland Gazette*, March 5, 1898).

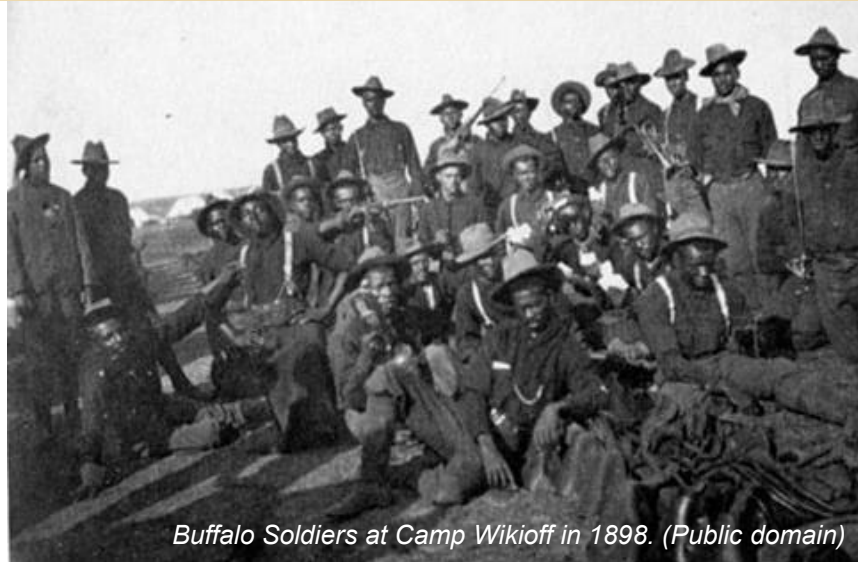
- If you were in this situation, what would you do?
- How did the Buffalo Soldiers' service make a difference for future generations of African Americans in the military?

Compare the size of the Rough Riders monument with the size of the Buffalo Soldiers monument. Both the Rough Riders and the Buffalo Soldiers were noted for their courageous contributions in the Spanish-American War ... but the Rough Riders only fought in Cuba, while the Buffalo Soldiers fought in multiple conflicts over several decades.

- Why did the Rough Riders get so much more credit, in the monuments and in the history books? How can this be changed?

Find the graves of Allen Jones and Robert Coates in Section 23. Notice how many of the individuals interred around them served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT). The USCT were African American regiments formed during the Civil War. Despite suffering heavy casualties and the threat of violent abuse if captured by Confederate forces, many of the USCT fought with distinction. The soldiers interred in Section 23 are a reminder that African Americans have a long legacy of service in the American armed forces, even while facing severe prejudice and systemic racism.

- How can you honor the service of these early African American regiments?



Buffalo Soldiers at Camp Wikioff in 1898. (Public domain)



Buffalo Soldiers ca 1899. (LOC)



Members of the 9th Cavalry on horseback during the War in 1898. (LOC)



Social Media
Connection #3

★ COLONEL CHARLES C. PIERCE ★



WALKING TOUR STOP 12

Section 15A, Grave 7

BIRTH: February 6, 1858, Salem, NJ

DEATH: May 16, 1921, Tours, France

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Charles C. Pierce was born in 1858 in Salem, New Jersey. He married Frances Rees Pierce, and had one daughter, Mrs. Dewitt C. Jones, who requested both of her parents receive proper burials in Arlington National Cemetery.

CAREER: During the 1880s and 1890s, Pierce had served as an Army Chaplain in the Western states, where care of the dead was included along his traditional duties. When the Spanish-American War began, he was appointed to the Office of Identification and U.S. Army Morgue in Manila.

While stationed in the Philippines, Pierce perfected new techniques for identifying war dead, maintaining accurate records, and transferring remains stateside for proper burial. He required subordinates to obtain all information that related to the casualties and compared those findings to the bodies exhumed from makeshift graves.

By 1908 the toll of the position along with the climate of the Philippines compelled Pierce to return to the United States. Upon returning, he relinquished his position in the Army and became an Episcopal minister. He was recalled to service at the outset of World War I and named Chief of the newly created Quartermaster Graves Registration Service. He died in 1921 while serving in France.

LEGACY: Pierce is credited with being the founder of the Army's first modern mortuary affairs system. Besides reforming the management of soldiers' remains, Pierce also recommended the implementation of dog tags into the standard Army uniform. These aluminum identification tags would become a staple of the Army and ensure that future soldiers could be easily identified.



Photograph of Pierce taken from his passport application around 1917. (Army Archives)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

After walking past McPherson Circle, Pierce's headstone is adjacent to McPherson Drive on the left. Make sure to note his relatives Eloise and Ethel interred beside him.



WALKING TOUR STOP 13

Section 1, Grave 526-B

BIRTH: November 4, 1864, Washington, D.C.

DEATH: October 5, 1940, Washington, D.C.

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE: Anita Newcomb was born in 1864 to noted astronomer and mathematician Simon Newcomb and academic Mary Caroline Hassler. She was the eldest of three daughters. Hassler created an environment that allowed her daughters to flourish academically. McGee spent three years studying at Newnham College in Cambridge, England and the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

In 1888 she married prominent geologist and anthropologist W.J. McGee. Shortly after their marriage she attended medical school at Columbian College. After receiving her degree she established a private practice in Washington D.C. She had three children, a daughter named Klotho, a son Donald who died of meningitis at 9 months, and a son named Eric Newcomb who was born in 1902.

CAREER: Dr. McGee used her social status and medical experience to cultivate support for the Daughters of the American Revolution Hospital Corps. This organization prepared volunteer nurses for the Army and Navy after the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. She petitioned Army Surgeon General George M. Sternberg to only allow qualified nurses to be stationed at base hospitals. Sternberg appointed Dr. McGee as Acting Assistant Surgeon of the U.S. Army, which granted her jurisdiction over the Army Nurse Corps.

LEGACY: Dr. McGee became the only woman permitted to wear an officer's uniform during the Spanish-American War. She raised the standards for nursing in the military and secured its position in the Army by creating the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Throughout her education and career Dr. McGee defied social norms and paved the way for future female doctors and nurses. Dr. McGee was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in 1940.



Anita Newcomb McGee. (NIH)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

Dr. McGee's grave is located on the far left of Section 1 adjacent to Humphrey Drive. If you are facing the parking lot Dr. McGee's tombstone is to the right of her parent's family monument.



CAPTAIN ALLYN K. CAPRON



WALKING TOUR STOP 14

Section 1, Grave 289

BIRTH: 1871, Brooklyn, New York

DEATH: June 24, 1898, Las Guasimas, Cuba

EARLY AND PERSONAL LIFE: Allyn K. Capron was born into a family of soldiers. The past five generations of his family served in the Army. His grandfather was killed in the Mexican–American War. His father Allyn Capron also served in the Army during the Spanish-American War, dying from typhoid fever a few weeks after his return to the United States. Capron was survived by his wife, Lillian Capron, who died in 1937.

CAREER: Capron enlisted in the Army in 1890. He raised and trained two companies of men from the Oklahoma territory that made up part of the famous Rough Riders. While taking aim at a Spanish soldier during the battle at Las Guasimas, Capron was struck between his neck and left shoulder and collapsed. He told his men to continue fighting as he laid on the ground. Within a few hours, Capron died from his injuries.

LEGACY: Capron was the first United States Officer to die during the Spanish-American War. He gallantly led his men into battle and commanded they continue fighting after he was shot. In 1925, he was posthumously awarded two Silver Star Awards for bravery for his actions in the Sioux Campaign and the Spanish-American War.



Capron in 1898. (Oklahoma Historical Society)

“Finally, there was Allyn Capron, who was, on the whole, the best soldier in the regiment. In fact, I think he was the ideal of what an American regular army officer should be.”

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

From “The Rough Riders” page 20



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WALKING TOUR

Capron's grave is four rows up from the Arlington House parking lot.

REPATRIATION OF FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS



Social Media
Connection #4



The Spanish-American War marked the first time the United States government paid to repatriate the remains of fallen soldiers. Of the over 300,000 soldiers who fought in the war, 2,061 died from disease and 385 died during battle.

The memory of unknown soldiers who died during the Civil War lingered amongst veterans. President McKinley, who witnessed the bloodshed at Antietam as a soldier in the Union Army, vowed to enforce policies that ensured deceased servicemen received a proper burial. On July 8, 1898, Congress allocated funds to disinter and repatriate the remains of all Americans who died during the war.

Quartermaster Brigadier General Marshall I. Ludington supervised the entire process. The War Department acquired the assistance of D.H.

Rhodes, the landscape gardener at Arlington and inspector of national cemeteries, to traverse Cuba and Puerto Rico and catalog the fallen U.S. soldiers interred in makeshift graves. Rhodes then returned to the islands with a team of forty-six undertakers, foremen, and laborers. After locating the graves marked by Rhodes the previous autumn, the team disinterred the fallen soldiers, cleaned them and placed them in zinc-lined caskets for transport. As a result of Rhodes's efforts, only one in seven of those who died in the Caribbean theater remained unknown. Rhodes continued his work in the Philippines where he identified all but 15 of the 1,073 American soldiers repatriated to the United States.

Top: Coffins draped with flags are ready for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in 1898 (LOC). Below: Graves of Marines killed in battle at Guantanamo, Cuba on July 14, 1898. (LOC, ca. 1898-1901)

REFLECTION:

- Why did America make such an effort to repatriate fallen soldiers? Who was it for?
- What would you want if a family member died in service overseas?



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Tag Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and hashtags #ANCEducation and #ANCeduSpanAmWar

#1 USS MAINE MAST MEMORIAL

At ANC we remember and honor all of the fallen—not just the famous. Explore the USS Maine Memorial and share a picture of the name of one of the victims of the Maine explosion with us. Can you find out any additional information about this person? He may be buried in a marked grave, or he may be one of the many unknowns buried near the monument. Tag Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and the hashtag #ANCeduSpanAmWar

#2 SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES

Would you have wanted to be a nurse during the Spanish-American War? Share your answer to this and other reflection questions with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by tagging Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and the hashtag #ANCeduSpanAmWar

#3 BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Only a handful of monuments in the United States honor the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers. Tell us how you would improve remembrance of the Buffalo Soldiers, either as a unit or as individuals. What do you want other visitors to understand about the Buffalo Soldiers? Share your ideas with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by tagging Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and the hashtag #ANCeduSpanAmWar

#4 REPATRIATION

Did your understanding of the Spanish-American War change after visiting these sites at ANC? How so? Share your thoughts with us by tagging Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and the hashtag #ANCeduSpanAmWar

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