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Commemoration Of Louisiana Native Guard Assault Held

By Susan Teel

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Reenactors portraying members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry performed drills for visitors. NPS photo.

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Gulf Islands National Seashore in partnership with Ship Island Excursions hosted a commemoration of the 2nd Regiment of the Louisiana Native Guards' April, 1863, successful assault on Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The event provided a rare opportunity to experience Fort Massachusetts, located on West Ship Island in Mississippi, as it might have been during the Civil War and featured a living history encampment by Company C, 3rd U.S. Infantry (1860-1865).

Visitors and local students also met Frederick Douglass and were captivated by his story, as portrayed by Michael Crutcher.

Reenactors in period-appropriate attire were stationed at a beach encampment and performed drill demonstrations around the fort, answered visitor questions, and provided information about West Ship Island during the Civil War.

Deputy Superintendent Steve McCoy portrayed a Confederate prisoner of war and directed visitors to various activities. Ranger Mike Aymond provided guided walks to explore the natural wonders of the barrier island.

The commemoration activities took place on April 12th and April 13th. Special activities for local school children occurred on Friday, April 11th.