An early burial in the military burial ground now known as Alexandria National Cemetery. The hospital's Mess Hall was the early meeting place for the congregation that became Shiloh Baptist Church.

Hundreds protested inequality in death and petitioned for soldiers serving in the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT).

Slave dealers Issac Franklin and John / purchased the block in 1835 and continued to be used by a succession of such businesses at the corner of a block that witnessed the extremes of 19th century African American experience. From a slave trading company to significant expressions of freedom.

Northern Virginia Urban League’s Freedom of the Streets Committee bought the property in 1970 and it became the Freedom House of Northern Virginia. The building was dedicated for senior housing in 2010.

The 4th U.S. Colored Infantry (USCT) began in 1863 and resulted in the service of about 179,000 men. In the first known civil rights action in Alexandria, they fought through their military service -- burial as soldiers, not as civilians. "As American citizens, we have a right to fight for the protection of our bodies, our property, our homes, our country, our country's flag, that right is granted, and we are now sharing equally in ground designated for the burial of brave defenders."

We ask that...