

ON JANUARY 8, 1815, A MONUMENTAL AMERICAN VICTORY
WAS ACHIEVED HERE, THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS. LOUISIANA
HAD BEEN A STATE FOR LESS THAN THREE YEARS. BUT
OUTNUMBERED AMERICANS INNOVATED AND USED THE TACTICS OF THE
FRONTIER TO DEFEAT A VETERAN BRITISH FORCE TRAINED IN THE
STRATEGY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS.

WE HAD SUFFERED HUMILIATION AND A MEASURE OF DEFEAT

IN THE WAR OF 1812. OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL IN WASHINGTON

HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND BURNED. SO THE ILLUSTRIOUS VICTORY

IN THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS WAS A POWERFUL RESTORATIVE TO

NATIONAL PRIDE.

YET THE VICTORY AT NEW ORLEANS TOOK PLACE TWO WEEKS
AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE IN EUROPE. THOUSANDS
DIED ALTHOUGH A PEACE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED. THE
COMBATANTS HAD NOT GOTTEN THE WORD. YET THE EPIC
STRUGGLE NEVERTHELESS RESTORED AMERICA'S PRIDE.

TODAY AMERICA CAN AGAIN REGAIN THE SENSE OF PRIDE

THAT EXISTED BEFORE VIETNAM. BUT IT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY

REFIGHTING A WAR THAT IS FINISHED -- AS FAR AS AMERICA IS

CONCERNED. THE TIME HAS COME TO LOOK FORWARD TO AN AGENDA

FOR THE FUTURE, TO UNIFY, TO BIND UP THE NATION'S WOUNDS

AND RESTORE IT TO HEALTH AND OPTIMISTIC SELF-CONFIDENCE.

IN NEW ORLEANS A GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT AFTER A WAR
WAS OVER. IN NEW ORLEANS TONIGHT WE CAN BEGIN A GREAT
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT MUST BE
WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY --- AND OF THE FUTURE.