



Marquis de Lafayette

b. Chavaniac, France, 9/6/1757; d. Paris, 5/20/1834.

The revolutionary ideals of freedom and equality inspired this French officer to fight with the Continental Army. Lafayette used his own money to purchase a ship to bring him to America. A lifelong abolitionist, he urged George Washington to free his slaves. During the French Revolution, he wrote a Declaration of Rights for French citizens with help from Ambassador Thomas Jefferson.

"Men are born and remain free and equal in rights... These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression."