French patriots honored at Fort Saint Charles

Louisiana caught up with some of its history on Sunday, Oct. 30, when the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana State Museum and CODOFIL dedicated a French-language historical marker commemorating the sacrifice of Louisiana French patriots, executed by order of the then-territorial Spanish governor, General O'Reilly in 1769 at Fort Saint Charles.

The marker, affixed to the opposite side of the unilingual English-speaking marker, is a gift of CODOFIL and the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

CODOFIL Chairman James Domengeaux said, "It is fitting that the history of Louisiana be remembered in the French language as much of its history was made in that language. With bilingual markers in appropriate places across the state, a truer picture of Louisiana history is presented to its own people and the hundreds of thousands who visit us each year from out of state and out of country."

New Orleans Mayor Dutch Morial welcomed the public to the ceremony in an opening speech while Dr. Homer J. Dupuy, CODOFIL council member, served as MC.

Philippe Grégoire, newly-appointed French Consul for New Orleans, came as honored guest.

The ceremony occurred during the official grand opening of the Old United States Mint at 400 Esplanade Avenue, featuring the permanent collection of exhibits, "Carnival in New Orleans" and "New Orleans Jazz."

OVERSEEING THE UNVEILING of the New Orleans Historic Marker are, from left to right, Homer Dupuy, New Orleans Mayor Dutch Morial and CODOFIL Chairman James Domengeaux. (Photo: MEDIA-LOUISIANE)