

Jose Julian Marti Perez

- (1853-1895) - Sometimes called the Apostle of the Cuban Revolution. He showed a talent for writing and revolutionary politics at an early age. He originally pursued studies in painting before turning to writing. By age 16, he was already publishing his poetry and writings. The famous patriotic song "Guantanamera" is adapted from his poetry collection *Versos Sencillos (Simple Verses)*. He was passionate about the growing revolutionary efforts to liberate Cuba from Spain, known as the Ten Year's War, and soon devoted his skills as a writer to advance the cause. First exiled from Cuba in 1871, Martí spent much of his life abroad. In 1895, he returned to Cuba to fight for its independence and died on the battlefield.
- Cuban leader Fidel Castro has named him as an important influence on his own revolution in Cuba decades later. Martí is now considered a national hero in Cuba and is honored by a memorial statue in the Plaza de la Revolución in Havana as well as the international airport and plazas throughout Cuba bear his name. His image, writings, and poetry, can still be found throughout Cuba and the world.