

Memorial Day of the organizer and the first rector of PGUPS Augustine Betancourt

День памяти организатора и первого ректора ПГУПС
Августина Бетанкура



July 26 marked the 200th anniversary of the death of Augustine Betancourt, an outstanding engineer, scientist, statesman, organizer and first rector of the Institute of the Corps of Transport Engineers of the present Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University.

On this day, red and yellow roses in the colors of the Spanish flag in memory of Augustine Betancourt were laid in St. Petersburg at the monument on the grave of the Spanish engineer with a Russian soul and at the monument erected in his honor in front of the main building of the higher educational institution organized by him. Here he laid the foundations for the education of transport engineers according to the curriculum, which combined scientific-theoretical, general

engineering and special practical training of a future specialist.

Commemorative event with the participation of Acting Rector Tamila S. Titova, Emeritus Professor and leading historian of PSUPS Igor P. Kiselev, academics and students began at the monument to Augustine de Betancourt on Obukhovskaya Square near the main building of the university. Then the participants of the commemorative event went to the Necropolis of the XVIII century Lazarevsky Cemetery of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra (to the State Museum of Urban Sculpture), where the grave of an outstanding engineer is located, a flower-laying ceremony was held here.

As noted by the Acting Rector of PSUPS Tamila S. Titova, Augustine Betancourt, during his short life in



Russia, made a significant contribution to the development of the transport, the construction industry, and the industry of our country. But Betancourt's main merit is the creation of a modern Russian engineering school.

"His contribution as the creator of the architectural appearance of St. Petersburg in the 19th century is great. He discovered the talent of architect Montferand to the world and laid the foundations for the engineering project of St. Isaac's Cathedral. This place in the Alexander Nevsky Lavra is sacred to us", Emeritus Professor of PGUPS Igor P. Kiselev addressed the par-

ticipants of the ceremony, "We come here on Augustine Betancourt's birthday on February 1, on Memorial Day, as today, in July, on the day of the foundation of the Institute on December 2 — thereby continuing the connection between generations of students and graduates of our university that are the descendants of Betancourt activities".

Svetlana V. Minina for BRICS Transport

*Светлана В. Минина
для журнала «Транспорт БРИКС»*