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### **A Powerful Reconciliation at Gettysburg**

Chris Kolakowski, November 29, 2024,  
blueandgrayeducation.org



*Veterans at the Pickett's Charge monument during the 50th anniversary | LOC*

In July 1913, a large crowd gathered at Gettysburg National Military Park to mark the 50th anniversary of the Civil War's bloodiest battle. The United States Army oversaw the program and logistics for the major gathering of veterans, spectators, and dignitaries over several days of events and ceremonies.

One of the officers detailed to support the anniversary was Lt. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., who was just shy of his 27th birthday. His namesake father was a Confederate lieutenant general, friend to U.S. Grant, former governor of Kentucky, and vice-presidential candidate on the Gold Democrat ticket in 1896.

What Buckner Jr. saw at Gettysburg made a deep impression. "At the 'Bloody Angle' the survivors of Pickett's Charge shook hands with those who fifty years ago had met them in a bloody struggle. Each was proud to be

in a country which had produced the other. Each was glad to call the other his friend," he wrote to his mother. "The Gettysburg semi-centennial has not been the celebration of a victory of war. It has been the celebration of a victory of peace."

Buckner Jr.'s excitement about this assignment raised an eyebrow with his mother Delia, who was from the Confederacy's former capital, had Confederate ancestors, and was married to the highest-ranking Confederate still living. Bolivar explained in a letter that he relished the professional challenges of supporting a camp of 55,000 veterans. He also recognized that "being associated with officers who will in a very few years be at the top in the Army, and having an opportunity to meet many of those who are now prominent in National politics, is always of advantage professionally." He reassured Delia that "I love the South, and all that it stands for. I love its people, its traditions, its gentility, but I do not feel that loyalty to the South compels me to hate the North."

Buckner Jr. also happened to be present for the battle's 75th anniversary in 1938, leading tanks of the 66th Regiment in a parade through town.

A few years later, he took command of the defenses of Alaska, which he led until being assigned to command of Tenth Army in June 1944. He directed Tenth Army in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945, and was killed in action on June 18, 1945. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., is the seniormost American killed by enemy fire in World War II and the 20th century, and lies next to his parents in Frankfort, Kentucky.



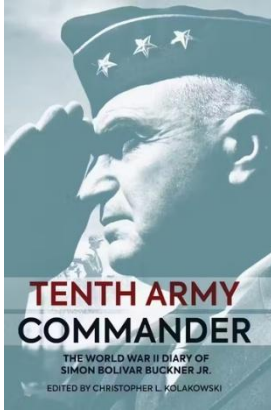
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You can read more in the author's Tenth Army Commander, recently released by Casemate and available at this link: [www.casematepublishers.com/9781636241999/tenth-army-commander](http://www.casematepublishers.com/9781636241999/tenth-army-commander).

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### **Gruesome Events at One of My Favorite Battlefields**

S. Waite Rawls III, November 22, 2024, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)



*John Cheves Haskell* | public domain

One of my favorite gruesome events of the Civil War happened at the battle of Gaines' Mill on June 27, 1862. Just a day earlier, Robert E. Lee had come out of Richmond, Virginia, with all systems on go and hit Union General McClellan's isolated right flank at Beaver Dam Creek (some call it the Battle of Mechanicsville), marking the start of the Seven Days Battles. The following day, Lee pushed eastward, probing for McClellan's position, and found him dug in along the steep slopes of Boatswain's Creek. Lee attacked in waves—first one brigade, then a division, then another, then a setback, then an additional attack or two. By the end of the day, Lee had attacked with almost 60,000 men. Compare that, for example, with the 12,500 who advanced in Pickett's Charge a year later. Some historians claim that Lee had this successful attack at Gaines' Mill in mind when he ordered Pickett's, Trimble's, and Pettigrew's Divisions forward at Gettysburg.

The final breakthrough at Gaines' Mill came from John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade, when and where their reputation was first made. And that is when and where one of my favorite events happened. You can read all about it in The Haskell Memoirs of South Carolinian John Cheves Haskell. As the battle intensified, young staff officers like Haskell wanted to get into the fight. Spotting General Hood as the Union position was nearing collapse, Haskell expressed his desire to fight. Hood told him that "he was about to charge the battery which was sweeping the level beyond the ravine, where we had just broken the enemy's first line," and invited Haskell to join in.



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So Haskell joined the charge, and I'll let him tell his story. "We charged across the plateau about four or five hundred feet. When I got within a few feet of the guns, I marked a gunner fixing his lanyard into the friction primer. I made a run to cut him down before he could fire, but he was too quick. When I was not over ten feet from the muzzle the gun went off. The shot struck my right arm, crushing it and tearing it off at my shoulder. When it hit me, it seemed to knock me up in the air and spin me around two or three times. ... When I came to, I found my arm wrapped around my sword in a most remarkable manner. ... I unwound the fragments of my arm from my sword blade, which I got back into the scabbard. I succeeded in stuffing my arm into the breast of my coat, got to my feet and started to the rear."



*Confederates advancing to the capture of disabled guns at Gaines' Mills | public domain*

As he made his way across the battlefield, near the ravine leading down to Boatswain's Creek, Haskell encountered his friend, Bradfute Warwick, a Richmond native commanding the 4th Texas that day. Warwick was mortally wounded, and, despite his injury, Haskell stopped to seek



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help for him, his severed arm still stuffed into his uniform.

Okay, come on, it doesn't get any better than this. Stuffing your severed arm into your coat and calmly walking to the rear?? That's a story that gets pretty close to the top of all of them that I have ever read. So, if you have the chance, make a special trip to Gaines' Mill, park by the Watt House, walk onto that plateau that Haskell described, and think about that incident.

John Haskell survived his wound, returned to service, rose to the rank of colonel, and served as Lee's artillery commander at the surrender at Appomattox, partly because he still had a clean uniform. He later married a daughter of Wade Hampton and lived until 1906. The American Civil War Museum collection in Richmond, Virginia, even includes Warwick's uniform and the camp chair that Haskell used, designed with a special rest for the stump of his arm!!

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### **Stephen Lang, Jeff Shaara Star in a Holiday Weekend Ensemble Performance at Gettysburg**

By Harold Holzer, Sep 16, 2024, Civil War News

GETTYSBURG, PA—For award-winning actor Stephen Lang, star of the films *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*, not to mention the futuristic global blockbuster *Avatar*, it was a return to the past and the Civil War town he loves most. Lang regards Gettysburg "not only as hallowed ground of memory, but as a place of purpose for the future, where conflicting ideas can be discussed without rancor."



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*Bassist Tim Cobb plays “Taps” beneath a graphic provided by Jake Boritt. (All photos courtesy Gettysburg Foundation)*

This year, on July 5, he brought an ensemble: novelist Jeff Shaara, musician Tim Cobb, and this reporter. The result was both magical and memorable: *Battle Hymns: Gettysburg in Myth, Music & Memory*, a 90-minute tour-de-force performance of historical and fictional prose and poetry for a sold-out audience at the Kinsley Theater in the Gettysburg Visitor Center.

Lang is a true Gettysburg veteran: he has been visiting and performing here for years, delivering his one-man play *Beyond Glory* (particularly its long soliloquy on James Jackson Purman, a Battle of Gettysburg Medal of Honor recipient). His young reader’s book on Purman, *The Wheatfield* and the animated film it inspired debuted here. Lang received the inaugural Kinsley Award from the Gettysburg Foundation for exemplifying Abraham Lincoln’s vision for a civil and inclusive society in 2019. He has also recited the Gettysburg Address at both the annual Lincoln Forum and at the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Dedication Day. Lang’s voice can now be heard performing the iconic speech in the introductory film at the newly restored and repurposed Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station.



“Gettysburg has meaning to me on several levels,” Lang said in a post-performance interview for this article. “First of all, it represents a victory of union over disunion, and the preservation of our democracy, and then there is the beauty of the place: the fields and orchards and the rocky hills and meandering creeks. This landscape is imbued with the spirit of those who struggled here. It is palpable and can be felt on a soft breeze or a warm rock. It is a place for reflection and renewal.” On July 5, the night after a dazzling Independence Day fireworks display lit up the hazy sky above the battlefield, Lang provided dramatic fireworks of his own by leading the group performance at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center.



*Jeff Shaara reads from his father’s masterpiece, *The Killer Angels*.*

As noted, Lang generously shared the spotlight with friends from both Gettysburg and his native New York City. “Can there be any greater gift than the opportunity to work with such deeply talented men?” asked Lang.



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“Each is a master at his chosen art: Harold Holzer as a historian; Jeff Shaara as a writer of historical fiction; and Tim Cobb as a remarkable musician. These three gentlemen all share a deeply committed, and what I would characterize as a scholarly, approach to their work. This is immensely appealing to me. They are the kind of people I like to be around.”



*Harold Holzer reads Lincoln’s letter to George Meade.*



*The panelists discuss their performance. Left to right- Cobb, Shaara, Holzer, and Lang.*

For Shaara, the occasion coincided with the 50th anniversary of his father Michael’s landmark Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Killer Angels*, which inspired the Ron Maxwell *Gettysburg* film in which Lang played General George Pickett. Shaara read both the opening and closing passages of *Killer Angels* for “Battle Hymns,” bracketing the deeply moving recitations with a passage from his own sequel, *Gods and Generals*, and another from his historical novel *Last Full Measure*. Shaara’s latest book, *Shadow of War: A Novel of the Cuban Missile Crisis*, has already earned acclaim and popularity, as well as a long book-signing line at the Visitor Center following the July 5 show.

“It was a unique and amazing privilege sharing the stage with Stephen Lang, Harold Holzer, and Tim Cobb, three extremely talented artists,” said Shaara. “To be included, I accept that as a serious compliment. It was an extraordinary evening, for the four of us and, I think, for the audience as well. I hope we can do it again.”

Cobb is principal bassist for the New York Philharmonic and head of the bass department at the Juilliard School. He brought along his prized ca. 1820 Italian bass instrument and used it to perform extraordinary musical interludes dotted with strains from “Dixie,” “Battle Cry of Freedom,” “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” and other Civil War music. Cobb concluded the program, after Lang’s extraordinary performance of the Gettysburg Address, with a deep-toned version of “Taps.”

This was Cobb’s second collaboration with Lang, and second journey to Gettysburg. He recorded the solo bass soundtrack for Lang’s animated film short, *The Wheatfield*, and appeared onstage with Lang and me here in 2013 to mark the 150th anniversary of the battle. Stephen Lang remembered that 2013 appearance as “an event that combined theater, history, animation, and music. It was a grand success, but just as important, a lot



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of fun. Ever since then, I have wanted to do something similar, and this seemed like as good a time as any.”

Full disclosure: the fourth member of the troupe, namely this reporter, leapt at the invitation from his friend Stephen Lang. My role was to contribute readings from the letters and speeches of Abraham Lincoln. *Civil War News* publisher Jack Melton, in turn, invited me to write this summary of the proceedings.

Among the passages I got to recite was the now-famous criticism Lincoln penned to General George G. Meade following Meade’s failure to pursue Robert E. Lee after Gettysburg. “He was within your easy grasp, and to have closed upon him would...have ended the war.” The President “never sent, or signed” the censorious missive, according to a notation at the bottom in Lincoln’s own hand. As the commander-in-chief later explained to a newspaperman: had his letter provoked Meade’s resignation, “I will have a hole for which I have no peg!”

As a prelude to Lang’s riveting delivery of Lincoln’s most revered oration, I concluded my readings with the letter of praise that principal Gettysburg orator Edward Everett generously sent Lincoln following their appearance at the dedication of the national cemetery on November 19, 1863. Writing the day after both men had delivered speeches there, Everett lauded the President for his “eloquent simplicity,” and conceded: “I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours as you did in two minutes.”



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Except for his rendering of the Gettysburg Address, Lang focused exclusively on recitations of his own remarkable, original Civil War poetry, which the actor modestly describes as “doggerel,” taking the rapt audience through the entire first day of the Gettysburg battle in dramatic rhyme, through the voices of Lee, Lincoln, John Buford, John Reynolds, Winfield Scott Hancock, and a multitude of others.

To produce and perform *Battle Hymns*, it might be noted, Lang traveled to Gettysburg from Greece, where he is filming a movie for Amazon, *The House of David*, portraying the prophet Joseph adorned with a much-longer beard than his fans are accustomed to seeing on the versatile actor. Somehow, the whiskers seemed “altogether fitting and proper” for Gettysburg, too. Lang and his family also enjoyed tours of the newly reopened Little Round Top, and later of the entire battlefield, braving scorching heat and humidity that perhaps only the original Joseph could long endure. He then flew back to his European location to continue filming *House of David*, but not before confiding his hopes of taking the four-man *Battle Hymn* production to other venues.

Its July 5 Gettysburg premiere was followed by a seated dinner at the Visitor Center, then a public conversation with the four performers, expertly moderated by Janet Riggs, immediate past president of Gettysburg College.

During the chat, Lang revealed that he and Shaara have also collaborated on *Grand Reunion*, the screenplay for a film about the surviving veterans’ 1913 mass gathering on the 50th anniversary of the Gettysburg battle. “I’ve never really collaborated on any



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writing project before,” Shaara said of the new project. “Creating the screenplay was eye-opening, especially sharing the creative process with someone like Stephen Lang, who brings different experiences, different talents, and total professionalism. And even better, he’s great to work with.”

The *Battle Hymns* premiere was coordinated and hosted by Brian Klinzing, director of development for the Gettysburg Foundation, with generous support from leadership and staff of the organization. J. Gordon Beitenmiller, member of the Gettysburg Foundation Board of Directors, introduced the dinner panel.

Production guru Ron Rogell provided stage management and lighting, and Gettysburg’s own Jake Boritt, who recently co-produced the first Gettysburg Film Festival, created and screened a panorama of modern and period images that served as an evocative backdrop for the readings.

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### **Civil War Conscription**

By Joan Wenner, J.D., Sep 16, 2024, Civil War News



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*This political cartoon, entitled “Don’t you see the point?” Published in Harper’s Weekly on August 29, 1863.*

Just as in modern times, armed opposition fuels volunteerism but is typically followed by conscription when increased mobilization is needed to bolster the ranks, particularly front-line troops, if volunteer recruitment provides insufficient replacements due to sickness, death, injury, and desertion.

On March 4, 1861, President, Abraham Lincoln, rode up Pennsylvania Avenue to deliver his inaugural address. By May 3rd, he would be calling for 75,000 three-months, volunteers, another 42,000 three-year volunteers, plus 18,000 sailors to blockade southern ports, even though the Navy had fewer than 60 ships at that time and any increase would require many more sailors to man them.

While not all young males were interested due to factors such as fear and disillusionment, many eager men came to recruiting offices from farms, villages, and cities across the North and South.

Excitement, as well as alarm, seemed to permeate every home, it was reported. A journalist traveling in the South witnessed “crowds of armed men singing and promenading in the streets... though of course unfamiliar with the horrors of the battlefield...” The same sequence of enthusiasm and conscription concern USCT regiments, in which a number of ‘recruits’ were said to be fighting for their freedom as Union soldiers.

According to *The Civil War Chronicle*, which provides an extensive timeline of the war and beyond, Fort Sumter was a





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flashpoint for the disputing sides from late December 1860. Confederate forces began seizing Federal property throughout the South. Following the secession of South Carolina on December 20th, the Federal garrison at Fort Moultrie relocated to “the haven of Fort Sumter in the middle of Charleston Harbor.” What are sometimes considered the first shots of the war were from secessionist artillery targeting the Federal supply ship *Star of the West*, which was also carrying reinforcements for the garrison. Further south, the governors of Florida and Alabama demanded Federal troops at Fort Pickens surrender, though it remained in Union hands.

Lincoln had vowed not to fire the first shot at Sumter, but when Confederate batteries opened fire on April 12, 1861, the Union garrison returned fire but suffered defeat two days later and fled out of the battered fort. The next day, Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 three-month volunteers to quell the insurrection.

Most, it’s said, believed the war would be of short duration, but when the reality of a prolonged conflict set in, volunteering dried up in contrast to the patriotic fervor shown in the beginning. With a definite lack of enthusiasm for the draft, some other solution for obtaining military manpower had to be devised.

In mid-April 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis “approved an act calling for the conscription of every white male between the ages of 18 and 35 for three years of military service—the first national military draft to be instituted in the United States.” Historians oddly overlooked the point that the Confederacy was not in the



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United States at the time, and forgot all about the statewide drafts employed during the Revolutionary War.

On March 3, 1863, the Union Congress passed the Military Act, also called the Enrollment Act, which was a replacement for the “ineffectual Militia Act of July 17, 1862.” The Federal government was now solely responsible for conscripting troops for the Union army, writes author David McCormick. It designated the position of provost marshal and added enrollment officers within each congressional district.

In May 1864, Pennsylvania advertised a draft event to take place in Chambersburg, calling for 700,000 men. The legislation, especially the opportunity of paying of a fee to have someone else serve for an individual able but unwilling to serve, did not sit well with Democrats. They were reluctant, to say the least, to put “whole control” of males aged 20 to 45 solely with the president, with one newspaper calling the 1863 Military Act “a dangerous precedent of overreaching federal authority...” and an infringement of powers rightly resting with the states. “Unconstitutional” was the byword.

Also angering them was Congress passing an 1864 amendment that limited to one year how long the commutation fee would prevent someone from being drafted. Another imposed loss of citizenship as a penalty for draft evasion or desertion. Again, historians have forgotten the same buy out option was present during the Revolutionary War where groups of men subjected to the draft could pool their resources to hire some to represent the group in the military.





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Things would become increasingly “downright ugly” as draft activities progressed as the war dragged on. Provost marshals and enrollers were demonized, including being labeled as spies and embezzlers, with their lives threatened. Gangs threw stones, women beat the enrollers about the head with brooms, and threw hot water; some enrollers were confirmed murdered for doing their appointed jobs. Those whose duties included tracking down deserters, the draft agents, fared no better.

Others were effectively told to stop their work or else. Vigilantes roamed the territories while Democratic legislators in various states took matters into the courts to adjudicate the constitutionality issue to no avail. Also, like today, misinformation reigned. Conscription in the War Between the States would ultimately be only partially successful.

*Joan Wenner is a longtime contributor to Civil War News with a law degree, and a special interest in maritime topics and ‘snapshots’ of historical figures. A native New Yorker, she now resides in eastern coastal North Carolina. For comments email joan\_writer@yahoo.com.*

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### **Opening of new Fort Fisher Visitor’s Center**

News Release, Nov 5, 2024, Civil War News

**NC DNCR and NC Division of State Historic Sites hosted ribbon-cutting ceremony and public opening of new Fort Fisher Visitor’s Center**



*Fort Fisher’s New Museum.*

KURE BEACH, NC—More than 200 invited guests attended a recent ribbon-cutting hosted by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the NC Division of State Historic Sites to open the new visitor center, expanded earthworks, and underwater archaeology lab at Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

Ceremony speakers included NC Rep. Ted Davis Jr., NCDNCR Secretary Reid Wilson, NC Office of Archives & History Deputy Secretary Dr. Darin Waters, State Historic Sites Director Michelle Lanier, as well representatives of the site and Friends of Fort Fisher. Also attending were other state and local government officials, as well as noted historians and authors Rod Gragg, Bob Browning, and Dr. Chris Fonvielle Jr.

Ms. Kay Laird led ribbon cutting honors in memory of her late husband, former Friends of Fort Fisher Executive Director Paul Laird. Museum of the Southeast American Indian Director Nancy Chavis introduced a smudging ceremony by Reggie Brewer of the Lumbee Tribe of NC. The ribbon cutting was followed by the public opening of the site the following day.



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In planning since 2010, the new two-story visitor center cost approximately \$25.5 million and is expected to serve more than one million visitors a year. At 20,000 square feet, the new facility is approximately three times the size of its 1965 predecessor. The new visitor center has nearly twice the exhibit space of the former, plus amenities like a 100-seat orientation theater, an expanded gift shop, and an activity hall for rentals such as banquets, wedding receptions, educational activities, and classroom instruction.

The centerpiece of the new facility is a new exhibit that interprets a full and nuanced history of the site. Encompassing centuries of regional history, from pre-colonial times through Fort Fisher's role in World War II, *Through Their Eyes* is built on numerous historical perspectives. Rather than a collection of dates and battles, the exhibit powerfully centers men, women, and children from a multitude of backgrounds, eras, and experiences. Along the tour trail, visitors can view reconstructed earthworks--specifically, the fort's 6th, 7th, and 8th traverses—a center sally port, and an ammunition magazine with a working tunnel system.

Known as the Gibraltar of the South, Fort Fisher protected the port of Wilmington during the American Civil War until it fell to US forces in January 1865. In 1961, the site was designated a National Historic Landmark. Its original visitor center was built to accommodate an expected 25,000 visitors a year. The site is open 9 am- 5 pm, Tuesday-Saturday. Admission is free.



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Fort Fisher is part of the Division of State Historic Sites in the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR), the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary D. Reid Wilson, NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office, and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call (919) 807-7300 or visit [www.dncr.nc.gov](http://www.dncr.nc.gov).

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## **Commemorative Wreaths Across America Program**

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*Wreath's Across America NPS Employee*

News Release Date: November 30, 2024  
Bill Fields,NPS

### **COMMEMORATIVE WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM AT FORT DONELSON NATIONAL CEMETERY, SATURADY DECEMBER 14**

DOVER, TN- On Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, members of the Stewart County community, as well as attendees from well outside of the local area, will gather at Fort Donelson National Cemetery to pay honor as part of Wreaths Across America Day - the purpose of the national program being to "Remember the Fallen; Honor those who Serve; and to Teach our children of the value of Freedom." The theme for the 2024 endeavor is, "Live with Purpose."

The commemorative event will begin at Noon on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, inside the main entrance of the national cemetery. Attendees are encouraged to arrive at least fifteen minutes early. Individuals that sponsored a wreath for a specific grave marker of a loved one, are asked to be on site at 11:30 AM to pick up the wreath prior to the Wreath laying ceremony.

Offered through colloboration of the Fort DOnelson National Cemetery, a unit of the National Park Service, and the Douglas M. Lyons, Dover Post 72, American Legion, the local Post will place specially designated weraths for the respective branches of the nation's armed forces, and POW/MIAs. Wreaths delivered for the 2024 Wreaths Across America commemoration will decorate grave markers throughout the national cemetery, honoring veterans burried at the national cemetery from the Seminole Wars forward.

In 2023, more than 200 volunteers assembled to place wreaths on each of the 1,717 grave markers at the Fort Donelson National Cemetery; provided through the Wreaths Across America campaign.

On the day of the event, parking for those with handicap parking/accessibility needs, or for those attending only the program portion of the event, will be in the national cemetery parking lot, located at 174 National Cemetery Drive, Dover.

After the concluision of the Ceremony, the American Legion Post 72 will be providing a hot/cold beverage and light snacks at the W.D. Sykes Museum, 178 Cedar Street, Dover. While at the museum, attendees of the social are encouraged to view the numerous, wonderfully themed Christmas trees on display throughout the historic home. There is no fee to tour the museum.

Saftey is the number one priority at Fort Donelson. As there are no available heated faciilites in the national cemetery, attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather conditions of the day, wear



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comfortable footwear, and have water and a snack, if desired.

In case of inclement weather and event status, please check the park's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/fortdonelsonnps>, or by calling the park's event/weather line at 931-232-0827. For general park inquiries, please contact the Ranger staff at 931-232-5706 x0.

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### **Public Comment Period for the Fort Darling Landfill administrative Record and EE/CA addendum has been extended**



NPS

News Release, November 28, 2024, Kristen Allen, NPS

**THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES THAT THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS (EE/CA) ADDENDUM and UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD for THE FORT DARLING**



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### **LANDFILL SITE RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK, VIRGINIA HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 15, 2024**

The National Park Service (NPS) reminds those interested of the availability for public review of documents comprising the updated Administrative Record File, now including the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Report Addendum, for the selection of a removal action at the Fort Darling Landfill Site, located in Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia.

The EE/CA Addendum was prepared under NPS authority derived from Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and is consistent with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). After issuing an initial EE/CA Report in 2016, NPS determined previous assumptions regarding the stability of the steep slope at the northern boundary of the landfill were no longer valid, and an EE/CA Addendum is necessary to address data gaps regarding the extent to which hazardous substances may be released from the landfill north slope and whether exposure to such releases may pose unacceptable risks to human or ecological receptors. The purposes of the EE/CA Addendum are to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination at the Site, describe the removal action objectives (RAOs), describe and evaluate alternatives for addressing risks posed by unconsolidated landfill waste and subsurface soil containing hazardous substances on the landfill north slope, and identify the recommended removal action. The EE/CA Addendum





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identifies and evaluates four removal action alternatives for the landfill north slope area of the Site ranging from no action to complete removal of landfill waste and contaminated soil. The recommended alternative includes modifying the steep north slope to a more stable angle (33%), covering the exposed waste with two feet of clean soil fill and reestablishment of the native forest. A final response action selection will be made after the public comment period, considering any comments that are received.

record, comments will be made available for inspection by the general public, and copies may be provided to the public. If you submit a comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request in your comment that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Background documents can be viewed and comments posted here.

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The National Park Service welcomes written comments from the public on the proposed removal action and on the Administrative Record File. The public comment period is NOW open from November 1, 2024, through December 15, 2024. The updated Administrative Record File, including the EE/CA Addendum, is available for review during normal business hours at:

Richmond National Battlefield Park  
Chimborazo Medical Museum and Visitor Center  
3215 East Broad Street Richmond, Virginia 23223  
Phone: 804-226-1981  
Hours: Wed.-Sun. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Comments on the EE/CA Addendum may be submitted electronically via the link below or may be submitted in writing to:

Kristen Allen  
Richmond National Battlefield Park  
3215 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23223

All comments received from the public will be placed in the Administrative Record File for the Site. As part of the administrative