

\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

For Immediate Release

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**RANDOLPH, VA –**

### **Old Men and Boys' Battle To Be Commemorated**

In June of 1864, Union cavalry under the command of General James H. Wilson and August V. Kautz were making a raid through Southside Virginia, leaving a trail of destruction behind them. Their intention was to cut off the last remaining Confederate supply line. Their main objective was the destruction of the railroad bridge over the Staunton River between Charlotte and Halifax Counties. Fighting against a force of over 5,000 men and far superior artillery, the bridge was saved through the gallant efforts of 296 Confederate troops and 492 “old men and young boys” who gathered at the bridge to defend it from the advancing Federals.

This June 25<sup>th</sup> marks the 144<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this vital but less well-known battle. The tribute kicks off with a wagon ride and tour of the Battleground and a dusk cannon firing Friday night, June 20; the revelry continues with daylong events, Saturday, June 21. To mark this significant date and to honor those who gave their life, the Foundation along with the State Park and the United States Postal Service will make available a “Pictorial Commemorative Postmark for Battlefield State Park Station, Randolph, Virginia.” Postcards will be available for purchase along with stamps to commemorate the Battle for Staunton River Bridge.

This commemorative weekend is sponsored by K. R. Snead Trucking, Inc. of Scottsburg, Virginia and Southside Organics, LLC of Scottsburg.

A tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Battle Commemoration

Friday, June 20, 2008

#### **8pm-Dusk: Wagon Ride Tour of the Battleground**

**Dusk: Night Cannon firing demonstration by Cumming's Cape Fear Light Artillery** in Fort Hill. Please join the Historic Staunton River Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park as they host a “night cannon firing” in conjunction with the upcoming 144<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge on June 20. Please bring a flashlight.

Saturday, June 21, 2008  
Tentative Schedule

**9:00am – 10:00am: Military Service Award Ceremony** at Fort Hill near UDC monument, presented by the Halifax Chapter of the **United Daughters of the Confederacy** and the Historic Staunton River Foundation. These serve awards are presented to veterans who are lineal descendants of Confederate Veterans. The **Historic Staunton River Foundation** will present commemorative medals to recognized descendants of the participants of the Battle for the Staunton River Bridge.

**10:00am – 1:00pm: Members of the Sappony Indian Nation** will be present at Roanoke Station in Randolph with displays pertaining to their heritage and history. Sappony will demonstrate wood carving methods and the art of using a blowgun. In addition, Sappony food and merchandise will be available for purchase.

**10:30am – 12:00pm: Guided Battlefield tour and narration** will begin at the Roanoke Station in Randolph and conclude at the Clover Visitors Center. Parking is available at both locations, and a bus will be provided for transportation.

**11:30am: Lunch** – Hotdogs, BBQ, chips and beverages will be available for purchase at the Picnic Shelter at the Clover Visitors Center.

**1:00pm – 1:30pm: “Jeff Davis and the White House of the Confederacy,”** a lecture presented by **Abdur Ali-Haymes** in the Conference Room of the Clover Visitors Center. He joined the staff of the Museum of the Confederacy in 2000 after spending 30 years in the army as a Command Sergeant Major. He is a native of Halifax County.

**1:30pm – 2:00pm: Sam Craghead**, Marketing Outreach Specialist for the Museum of the Confederacy, will speak about the expansion of the museum that will be coming to Appomattox.

**Throughout the day:** Living History Encampment presented by Confederate re-enactors from the **14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co. K**, the **23<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co. I**, **Central Guards**, and **Oliver’s Battery, 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia, Co. C** will be located next to Fort Hill. Prisoner demonstrations and confederate cooking will be shown for public participation.

**Throughout the day:** Cannon firing demonstrations by **Cumming’s Cape Fear Light Artillery** in Fort Hill. A “firing schedule” will be available in the Clover Visitors Center.

**Throughout the day:** Pictorial **Commemorative Postmark** for Battlefield State Park Station Randolph, Virginia. A commemorative postmark will be available at the Clover Visitors Center and 30 days thereafter at the Randolph Post Office. Rare and unique postcards will be available for purchase along with stamps.

This is a “tentative schedule” and every effort has been made to maintain and keep it accurate. If you or someone you know is a descendant, please inform a representative from the contacts below. Let us know if you are interested in helping plan or volunteer for this or one of the Foundation and Park’s many other events held throughout the year. For more information of the Battle Commemoration and upcoming events, please visit the

Foundation's website at [www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org), email [info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org](mailto:info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org), or call the Staunton River Battlefield State Park at 434-454-4312.