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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PARK TOURS, ELLWOOD PROGRAMS TO COMMEMORATE 145th
WILDERNESS ANNIVERSARY
7th Annual FoWB Dinner and Auction to Anchor Events**

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) and the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FSNMP) will join forces May 2-3 to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness. This year's event, "Uncommon Hardship: Soldier and Civilian in the Wilderness," honors the contributions of the ordinary citizens and soldiers who served and lived during the time of the battle.

Ellwood Manor opens for the season on May 2 and will feature tours from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ellwood is the 18th century home on the battlefield grounds that became a Confederate hospital in the aftermath of the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville and a Union army headquarters a year later during the Battle of the Wilderness. Ellwood also is known as the burial place for General Stonewall Jackson's right arm, amputated after his wounding at the Battle of Chancellorsville. During the past two years, Ellwood has begun a dramatic renovation that has restored much of the house to its Civil War time period.

FSNMP will host a series of special events at various Wilderness Battlefield sites on Saturday, May 2. The events include four walking tours of significant battlefield areas and artillery firing demonstrations:

- "Unexpected Battle in Saunders Field." One-hour walking tour, starts at Wilderness Battlefield tour stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive. Conducted by Park Historian Kris White at 9:45 a.m.
- "Slow Fire with Short-range Shells." 30-minute Artillery Firing Demonstration at Wilderness Battlefield tour stop 6, Hill-Ewell Drive. Conducted at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

- “Home Turned Battlefield: The Higgerson Farm.” One-hour walking tour, starts at Wilderness Battlefield tour stop 4, Hill-Ewell Drive. Conducted by Park Historians Janice Frye and Noel Harrison at 11:45 a.m.
- “Bad Days in Beautiful Places: The Chewing Farm.” One- hour walking tour, starts at Wilderness Battlefield tour stop 5, Hill-Ewell Drive, conducted by Janice Frye and Noel Harrison at 1:45 p.m.
- “Reuniting with General Lee: The Widow Tapp Field.” One-hour walking tour, starts at Wilderness Battlefield tour stop 6, conducted by Kris White at 3:45 p.m.

Saturday evening is highlighted by “A Wilderness Evening,” the FoWB 7th Annual Dinner and Auction at the Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College, Culpeper, VA. In addition to the popular dinner and live and silent auctions, the evening will feature entertainment by a local troupe that will present “Somebody’s Darling, Somebody’s Pride,” the story of a common soldier as told through his letters home. (See sidebar for more information about the dinner and auction.)

On Sunday, May 3, the 145th anniversary commemoration will move to Ellwood Manor. Ellwood is located at the juncture of Spotsylvania and Orange counties, off Route 20 about one-half mile from the Route 3 intersection.

- “Uncommon Hardship: Soldier and Civilian in the Wilderness.” Tours and programs at Ellwood featuring musket firing, soldiers’ accoutrements, blacksmithing, cooking at home and in camp, medical practices, domestic demonstrations, and civilian hardships. From 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- “In the Tangle of the Wilderness: An Artillery Nightmare.” 30-minute Cannon Firing Demonstration. 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

- “Songs of Joy and Anguish.” A concert of secular and sacred music appropriate to the history of Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield by the Joysong Chorale. Conducted at 2:30 p.m.

The FSNMP events on Saturday are open to the public at no charge. Ellwood events on Sunday, May 3, also are open to the public and free, but as always donations to the Ellwood restoration are cheerfully accepted. The Saturday evening dinner and auction is a ticketed event. See the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield web site at www.fowb.org for details.

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield is a non-profit, all volunteer organization devoted to assisting the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in efforts to preserve the Wilderness Battlefield in Orange and Spotsylvania Counties. With more than 230 members, the Friends provide advocacy, educational programs and service projects for the battlefield. Be sure to view the FoWB’s Web site at www.fowb.org for more information about FoWB, Ellwood and the Battle of the Wilderness.

SIDEBAR:

FoWB’s Dinner, Silent, Live Auctions Promise Excitement

FoWB Annual Dinner and Auction, held each May in conjunction with the anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Wilderness, has become a highly anticipated event since its beginning 7 years ago. Ticket sales have been brisk this year, with a record attendance anticipated for the May 2 “Wilderness Evening.”

DINNER: Loudelia’s of Culpeper will serve a home cooked dinner buffet. The enticing array of delicious items will include hors d’oeuvres to start. The main menu will offer a selection of several dishes including mouth watering chicken, pork loin and pasta

primavera. Salad and sides will accompany these dishes. For those with enough room to continue, a variety of decadent mini deserts will be available. There will be a cash bar serving fine wines from the local region.

AUCTION ITEMS: Among the items generously donated by area businesses and individuals are:

- **Cruise:** aboard the Holland America cruise line
- **Dining:** at many of the area's finest restaurants
- **Tours:** the Fredericksburg Candlelight Tour, museums, two different custom tours of the area
- **Antiques:** a rocking chair, china platter, doll, stained glass and more
- **Art:** framed paintings, prints, and photographs
- **History-Mystery Dinner...**last year's popular offering returns
- **Books:** mainly Civil War-related, including an 1879 2-volume set of US Grant memoirs
- **Golf:** outings for 4 at the Tides Inn- Irvington, Va., and the Fawn Lake Country Club, Spotsylvania, Va.
- **Show Tickets:** from area theaters
- **Two-night Stay:** in a rustic cabin at a campground near Virginia Beach
- **Gifts:** to suit all tastes and budgets, including several custom-crafted for the FoWB Auction
- **Wine:** representing area vineyards and a personalized winery tour
- **Personalized Services:** from a master gardener, a professional organizer and an interior decorator