



County of Hanover

Board Meeting: March 12, 2014

Subject: Resolution Commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Hanover County and Recognizing April of 2014 and Subsequent Years as Civil War History in Hanover Month

Summary of Agenda Item: The attached resolution would proclaim the month of April in 2014 and subsequent years as Civil War History in Hanover Month and urge all residents of the County of Hanover to participate in the commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Hanover, to study the crucial role of Hanover County in the history of the Civil War and to welcome visitors to Hanover's many historic sites and special events highlighting the shared history and heritage of the citizens of this great nation, the United States of America.

County Administrator's Recommended Board Motion: Motion to adopt Resolution Commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Hanover County and Recognizing April of 2014 and Subsequent Years as Civil War History in Hanover Month

**A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL
OF THE CIVIL WAR IN HANOVER COUNTY AND RECOGNIZING
APRIL OF 2014 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS AS
CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN HANOVER MONTH**

WHEREAS the Spring of 2014 marks the 150 year anniversary of an especially historic time in Hanover County when it became a decisive battleground during the fourth year of the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS the elaborate strategic maneuvers of General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant and their respective commanders, as well as the determined and heroic combat by the soldiers of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and of the United States Army of the Potomac began in Hanover County on May 9-11 of 1864 when cavalry forces led by USA Major General Phillip Sheridan and CSA Major General J.E.B. Stuart maneuvered and skirmished through Hanover from Anderson's Ford on the North Anna River down to Yellow Tavern where a fierce battle resulted in the death of Major General Stuart, a crippling loss for General Lee and the Confederate Army; and

WHEREAS more than 150,000 Union and Confederate soldiers occupied fortifications along the North Anna River between May 23 and May 26, 1864, from which, after brief fighting and much tactical movement, the Union forces moved to the south and to the east where they were met again by the Confederate troops at Totopotomoy Creek May 29 through 31; and

WHEREAS the Union troops moved again to the site of the Battle of Cold Harbor which took place between May 31 and June 12, 1864, and is remembered as one of American history's bloodiest battles; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this determined Confederate defense, General Grant was forced to abandon his direct assault on the City of Richmond and skirt around the Capital of the Confederacy to begin what became a nine-month siege of the City of Petersburg; and

WHEREAS Hanover County was the site of many other important battles throughout the course of the war, including those fought at Beaverdam, Hanover Courthouse, Beaverdam Creek near Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, Haw's Shop/Enon Church, Peak's Station and Watt House: and

WHEREAS April is an especially significant month in the history of the Confederacy because April was the month in 1861 when the Virginia Secession Convention in Richmond adopted an ordinance declaring Virginia to be a free and independent State, and April of 1865

marks the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse and the fall of the last capital of the Confederacy in Danville, Virginia; and

WHEREAS the people of Hanover County were loyal to Virginia and fought valiantly to defend their Commonwealth, their homes and their families; and

WHEREAS the American Civil War was a conflict that divided not only the nation, but also many families and friends, where over 3.5 million Americans, including over 400,000 African-Americans, both free men and slaves, fought in a war in which over 600,000 American soldiers, including over 40,000 African-American soldiers, were killed; and

WHEREAS the soldiers fighting in Virginia, both Confederate and Union, distinguished themselves in their service and their sacrifice, fighting with bravery in the most desperate circumstances, and many lost their lives in defense of firmly held beliefs and convictions; and

WHEREAS it is essential that all Virginians, as we recognize the courage and sacrifice of our ancestors on both sides of the American Civil War, also acknowledge that the institution of slavery was one of the causes of this war, that slavery was an evil and inhumane practice that deprived African-Americans of their God-given inalienable rights and that the American Civil War hastened the demise of slavery in Virginia and its permanent eradication throughout the United States of America; and

WHEREAS General Lee set an example of reconciliation and grace necessary to help the people of Virginia return peacefully to the Union and urged his fellow Virginians to "...abandon all these local animosities and make your sons Americans"; and

WHEREAS in Hanover, in Virginia and throughout the United States, we have and we will continue to honor our past and draw from it the wisdom and strength to reconcile differences among ourselves and to move forward into the future together as "a more perfect union" of Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hanover County Board of Supervisors to proclaim the month of April in 2014 and subsequent years as Civil War History in Hanover Month and urge all residents of the County of Hanover to participate in the commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Hanover, to study the crucial role of Hanover County in the history of the Civil War and to welcome visitors to Hanover's many historic sites and special events highlighting the shared history and heritage of the citizens of this great nation, the United States of America.