

Gettysburg Borough Council
Resolution 030810-7

SUBJECT: Endorsement of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's Civil War
150th Living Legacy Program

BACKGROUND: The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership (JTHG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising national awareness of the unparalleled history in the region, which generally follows the Old Carolina Road (Rt. 15/231) from Gettysburg, through Maryland, to Monticello in Albemarle, VA.

JTHG has built a strong network of local, regional, and national partners to develop a common vision for the conservation and enhancement of the scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, and natural characteristics of the region. Additionally they have developed an education outreach program to all students and teachers within the region and nationwide.

JTHG has also created a heritage tourism program that will provide economic development opportunities through regional branding and cooperative marketing in communities throughout the corridor.

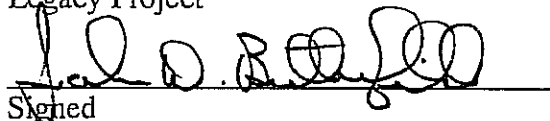
The U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, last month designated the 180-mile long thoroughfare running through the Journey, from Gettysburg, PA to Monticello, a National Scenic Byway. This is one of the highest designations the Secretary can bestow upon a public road and one that could have a profound economic impact on the local jurisdictions along the Journey Through Hallowed Ground.

The JTHG Partnership seeks to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War with a legacy project of National Significance. During the Civil War, 620,000 American Soldiers died, many on the battlefields within in the JTHG National Heritage Area. This "Living Legacy" project will commemorate the individual and combined sacrifices of the fallen. The JTHG Plan is to plant one tree for each citizen who sacrificed their life to create this union, at a set pace along the 180-mile Rt.15/231 corridor. The trees will appear as soldiers in formation, from Monticello to Gettysburg. The intention of this "eloquent and simple plan" is to create a living legacy, a constant reminder to every citizen as they drive this route, of the sacrifices made by fellow Americans. This project will stand as a living legacy for our Countrymen who gave "the last full measure" to define our Union. This project further lends itself to a national service learning program as students from around the country may research the fallen from their community, learn their stories, and dedicate a tree in their honor. The JTHG Partnership will be working through negotiations and agreements with individual landowners, thereby protecting individual property rights along the corridor during this initiative.

This item requests that the Gettysburg Borough Council endorse this program. The endorsements of partner jurisdictions will be used to seek grant funding for this program.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the endorsement of this program.

ATTACHMENT: Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's Sesquicentennial Living Legacy Project


Signed

3-8-10
Date