

Chancellorsville Project Opponents Plan Rally, March On December 14

By Jim Campi

The fate of Chancellorsville battlefield hangs in the balance. Despite an enormous outpouring of support for protection of the battlefield, plans for a megalopolis on the 790-acre Mullins Farm are moving forward. If built, this city will not only be built on the scene of the 1st day's fighting, it will also destroy the Chancellorsville experience forever.

Our only hope is to maintain pressure on local elected officials to do the right thing and save the battlefield.

To this end, the 11 nonprofit groups that compose the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield are planning a march and rally for Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m. The purpose of the event is to give friends of Chancellorsville an opportunity to express their dismay with plans to develop the hallowed battleground.

At presstime, details for the event still needed to be finalized. Current plans call for a remembrance march of Civil War reenactors, members of the U.S. military, and other concerned citizens.

Following the march, there will be a rally to urge local officials to save the Mullins Farm from development. As further details become known, they will be posted on the Chancellorsville Coalition website, www.chancellorsville.org.

Living historians from throughout the country are asked to participate in this worthwhile preservation event. The march and rally coincide with the annual anniversary commemoration of the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg will be holding several family-friendly activities throughout the weekend.

Friends of the battlefield can come for the rally and stay for the Fredericksburg 140th anniversary-

related events. The rally and march will likely be the last opportunity for Civil War enthusiasts to gather together and express their opposition to development of the Mullins Farm.

It is crucial that we send a message to Spotsylvania County officials that Chancellorsville battlefield belongs to all Americans.

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