



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

House of Representatives

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs

HON. HAROLD "HAL" ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

MR. ROGERS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and to honor the soldiers who fought and died in this significant battle during the Civil War 150 years ago today.

The Battle of Mill Springs took place on January 19th, 1862, in Pulaski and Wayne Counties in Kentucky and was the first significant victory for the Union Army in the west during the Civil War. The battle marks the death of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer, who was the first general to die in the Civil War.

The Battle of Mill Springs was the second largest battle to take place in Kentucky and engaged over 10,000 soldiers. The outcome of this battle broke the main Confederate defensive line that was anchored in eastern Kentucky and opened the path for the Union Army to move through Kentucky and into Tennessee, affecting the outcome of the war.

The Mill Springs Battlefield is considered a National Historic Landmark, as the Mill Springs Battlefield Association along with countless volunteers have made significant strides in preserving the site and educating the public about this historic event.

With the Mill Springs Battlefield Association Visitor Center providing visitors with battlefield tours, access to Civil War artifacts, and a Civil War library, there have been 50,000 Civil War enthusiasts who have traveled to this uniquely preserved,

nearly 500 acre historic battlefield. On this anniversary, I would like to honor and thank the Mill Springs Battlefield Association for preserving this important site, particularly Chairman Bill Neikirk, who has dedicated significant time and energy to the museum and battlefield acquisition. In honor of those who fought valiantly during the battle 150 years ago and in appreciation for all that Chairman Neikirk has done in preserving this historic site, an American flag will be flown over the Capitol Building on the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs.

Today I am also introducing non-binding legislation which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and its significance during the Civil War, as well as binding legislation that directs the Department of the Interior to conduct a study which evaluates the feasibility of incorporating the battlefield into the national park system. Such an addition will ensure its preservation for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and Civil War enthusiasts in commemorating this anniversary today and in seeking to preserve these hallowed grounds for tomorrow's visitors. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and to recognize those who bravely fought to help preserve the union of the United States.