

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman Gary G. Miller
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Congressman Miller Reintroduces Legislation to Preserve Civil War Battlefields

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Miller reintroduced legislation to reauthorize the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program through Fiscal Year 2013. The bill, H.R. 548, will facilitate the creation of partnerships at the state and local level, encouraging the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

“Our historic battlefields provide outdoor classrooms for visitors to recreate the history of heroes from generations come and gone,” said Congressman Miller. “Without a physical link to the past, we are left with only a passing glimpse of who we are as a nation.”

Since Congressman Miller first authored legislation creating the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in 2002, more than 15,000 acres of Civil War battlefields in fourteen states have been preserved, including Fort Donelson, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. The program authorizes grants for state and local governments to develop partnerships with private and non-profit organizations with the express purpose of purchasing historic battlefield land from willing sellers at fair market value.

“Despite the progress in saving these historic sites, we still have more to do,” added Congressman Miller. “Many Civil War battlefields have only been partially preserved and those that have no opportunity for acquisition run the risk of being lost forever. This important legislation will aid in the preservation of American history and will remind visitors of the struggles our country has gone through to preserve the banner of liberty and justice for all.”

Original cosponsors of the bill include Representatives Henry Brown, Bart Gordon, and Steve Israel. In the 110th Congress, this bill was unanimously passed on September 24, 2008.

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