



# The Vidette

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Vol. 10, No 2 Friends of Stones River National Battlefield

August 2002

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## From the President

Greetings!

Two upcoming events will give individuals the opportunity to participate in commemorating the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Stones River: the symposium on October 25-26 and the descendants' reunion on December 28-29.

The Battle of Stones River was a very significant event in the Civil War. The battle marked the shift of momentum to the Union in its campaign to trisect the Confederacy and also gave the Union a much-needed psychological and political boost.

Take advantage of these two great events to commemorate the Battle of Stones River and learn more about the battle. Reference the articles in this edition of The Vidette for details.

Eddie Macon

## Symposium

Stones River National Battlefield, Middle Tennessee State University, the Civil War Heritage Area and the Friends of Stones River will host a symposium on October 25-26 to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Stones River and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro.

Guest speakers' topics will address the war coming to Middle Tennessee, the significance of the battle, the aftermath of the battle and the legacies of the battle. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Battlefield for ranger-led interpretive programs. The proceeding of the symposium will be published in a special issue of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Contact Stones River National Battlefield at 615-893-9501 for details and registration procedures.

## 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

The officers and board of The Friends of Stones River National Battlefield will host a reunion for descendents of Union and Confederate soldiers who fought at the Battle of Stones River. The reunion will be held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29, 2002. Participants will have the opportunity to meet other descendents of the battle, participate in reunion activities, visit historical sites and attend commemorative programs at the Battlefield.

The reunion is part of a series of events that will commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Stones River. The battle started on the morning of December 31, 1862 and concluded on January 2nd, resulting in 22,000 Union and Confederate casualties.

There will be a registration fee of \$40.00 per participant with registration open to both descendents and non-descendents. Contact the Friends at P.O. Box 4092, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-4092 or via email at [friends\\_srn@yahoo.com](mailto:friends_srn@yahoo.com) to receive an agenda of events and registration form.

## Cemetery Wall Restored

Restoration specialist Dean Garrison from St. Augustine, Florida and Battlefield staff restored a section of the 100-year-old limestone wall at Stones River National Cemetery. A section of the cemetery wall was damaged by water that had seeped into crevices and then froze during cold weather. Tree roots damaged the wall as well.

The team worked 11-hour days for three days in June to repair the damage. Broken stones from the wall were cleaned and then pieced together with lime mortar. Lime mortar was used when the wall was originally built but is rarely used in modern construction.

## Memorial Day Service

An estimated 300 people, one of the best crowds in recent history, attended the Memorial Day service at Stones River National Battlefield.

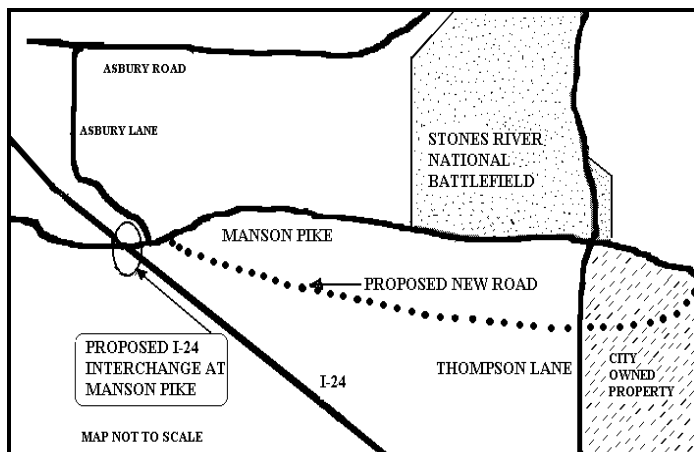
Chaplain Capt. Ernest B. Newsom, U.S. Navy, retired, gave the Memorial Day address. The message focused on why people become heroes because of their death or other sacrifices in service.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Volunteer Regiment, a Civil War reenactment group, presented a three-volley salute in honor of fallen veterans.

## Manson Pike Interchange on Fast Track

Tennessee Department of Transportation's top highway official has given the go-ahead for a new I-24 interstate interchange at Manson Pike that would be open for traffic in 2005. The new interchange is being built to support the development of the Manson Pike and Thompson Lane areas. The new interchange will be located one mile from the current boundary of the Battlefield.

There has been no activity relative to the proposed new road for routing the increase in traffic created by the new I-24 interchange away from Stones River National Battlefield.



## Battlefield Activities

### Living History and Guest Speakers:

#### August 17 - 18, 2002

7<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry, CSA. Programs at 11 AM & 2:30 PM Saturday and 12:30 PM & 2:30 PM Sunday.

#### September 15 – 22, 2002

Tennessee Archeology Awareness Week. Special programs to be announced.

#### September 21 – 22, 2002

Artillery programs at McFadden Ford. Programs at 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM.

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### Hallowed Ground, Lantern Light Tour of the Stones River National Cemetery:

#### August 17, 2002 – 7:00 PM

#### August 31, 2002 – 6:45 PM

Reservations required and will be accepted at 9 AM on the Monday before each program

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### Bicycle Tour: September 7, 2002

Fortress Rosecrans tour. Reservations required.

Dates and times subject to change. Contact Stones River National Battlefield at (615) 893-9501 for schedule updates and reservations.

## To Join The Friends Group

Membership dues are \$10 for individual membership or \$15 for family membership. Please send to: Friends of Stones River Battlefield, P.O. Box 4092, Murfreesboro, TN. 37133 or visit our website: [www.civilwarinteractive.com/friends.htm](http://www.civilwarinteractive.com/friends.htm) for an application. Email us at friends\_srn@yahoo.com

