



# The Vidette

Vol. 11, No 1 Friends of Stones River National Battlefield February 2003

## From the President

Greetings:

It was a personal honor for me to be a member of the Friends of SRNB committee that facilitated the first-ever reunion for descendants of Union and Confederate soldiers who fought at The Battle of Stones River.

It's hard to describe the thrill I experienced while watching the descendants enjoying fellowship at the reception and banquet; sharing stories, photographs and documents that detailed the lives of their ancestors; and visiting the Stones River Battlefield where their ancestors fought.

The descendants, who traveled from as far as California, Colorado, Minnesota and Michigan, expressed one strong, recurring theme: Let's do this again!

Eddie Macon

## Battlefield Activities and Special Events

### February: From Slaves to Soldiers

Daily 30-minute talk at 1:30 PM during African-American Heritage Month examines the social impact of the war on Murfreesboro by looking at the changes that took place in slaves' lives.

### February 15: Camp of Instruction (Infantry)

Watch and learn how untrained civilians became soldiers during the Civil War. 30-minute talks and infantry drill demonstrations at 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM.

### February 22: Volunteer Project Day

Volunteers and NPS employees will work together to improve and preserve SRNB cultural and natural resources.

### March 8-9: Artificer Camp

See the maintenance and supply tasks needed to keep an army running. Roam the camp and talk to soldiers or participated in one of the 30-minute talks offered at 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM AND 2:30 pm each day.

## Reunion T-Shirts

There is a limited quantity of T-shirts remaining from the first-ever Stones River descendant's reunion. The stone-colored T-shirt has the Friends of SRNB logo and the text "1<sup>st</sup> Descendants Reunion, 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Stones River, December 28-29, 2002 Murfreesboro, Tennessee" on the front; and on the back, a photograph of an elderly Union veteran and Confederate veteran shaking hands; with the text "Whether Blue or Gray, it make no difference to us. We are friends and brothers now".

Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis due to the limited quantities. Send \$12 for each T-shirt, your name, address and size (large or x-large) to Friends of Stones River Battlefield, P.O. Box 4092, Murfreesboro, TN. 37130-4092.

## Visitor Center Renovation and Expansion

The upcoming renovation and expansion of the visitor center at Stones River National Battlefield is expected to take 18 months with completion by 2004. Planning for the project started in 1998 and has been going through design refinement phases since then.

The visitor center, which currently consists of 3,200 sq. ft. on the main level and 2,800 sq. ft. of basement area, was completed in 1963. The expansion will add approximately 4,000 sq. ft. to the existing main level; thus, creating approximately 7,200 sq. ft. of space on the main level. The new main level will have four exhibit galleries, an interactive map, sound exhibits providing verbal insight to the battle and small video presentations. The basement area will be renovated only.

A temporary facility housing a modest numbers of exhibits, visitor information and books will be located across from the parking lot during the construction activity. The total project budget is \$4.397 million, which includes architectural design, actual construction cost, construction management and exhibit planning, fabrication and installation.

**Reunion Photos**



**Descendants: Grandchildren Seated, Great and Great-Great Grandchildren Standing**



**Descendants Examine Documents**



**Dr. Womack Speaking and Head Table**



**Banquet Participants**



**Descendants Enjoy Fellowship**