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CITIZENS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MIDDLETOWN VALLEY WILL SPONSOR A CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 COMMEMORATING THE 147TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN

(Middletown, MD) – The Citizens for the Preservation of Middletown Valley (CPMV) is continuing its efforts to protect and preserve the historic land of Middletown Valley. On March 18, 2009, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its report *History Under Siege: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields*. The report identified South Mountain Battlefield as one of the ten most endangered battlefields in the United States. Included in this land is the property now owned by Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) which has identified this site as their primary location for the placement for a \$55 million dollar gas compressor station.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, CPMV will sponsor a march of Civil War reenactors to commemorate the Battle of South Mountain, which took place on September 14, 1862. The march will begin at the Municipal Building on Main Street in Middletown and will then follow the original route taken by the 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiment, past the Dominion Transmission property, concluding at Reno Monument.

The 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry belonged to the First Brigade of Brigadier General Jacob Cox's Kanawha Division of the Ninth Corps. On the morning of September 14, 1862 they were sent as the first wave of Union troops to engage massed Confederate forces reported to be on the crest of South Mountain near the Old Sharpsburg Road (now Reno Monument Road) at Fox's Gap. Camped west of Middletown that morning, the 30th Ohio took the National Road (Alt-40), forded Catocin Creek, and turned left at the Ripp House onto a cross road leading to the Old Sharpsburg Road (now Marker Road). They took Old Sharpsburg Road west to the base of South Mountain where artillery shot from the summit announced the presence of Confederate infantry and artillery forces under Brigadier General Samuel Garland. A detachment of the 30th Ohio continued up the mountain by the Old Sharpsburg Road, while the main column turned off onto a wooded country road at the left. The 30th Ohio was deployed to the right on the Union right flank placed along the Old Sharpsburg Road. The 30th Ohio fought all day, enduring intense artillery and infantry fire at close range near the Wise Farm on the Old Sharpsburg Road on the mountain crest. By the late evening of September 14, the Union pressed the Confederates to the west side of South Mountain, but at the cost of over 5000 casualties and the deaths of both Union Major General Jesse Reno and Confederate Brigadier General Samuel Garland.

All proceeds from this event are tax-deductible and will be donated to the Civil War Preservation Trust. The CPMV is seeking the support of the community through volunteerism and donations. For further information, please visit www.cpmv.org or to send a contribution, please make your contribution payable to CWPT and mail to Citizens for the Preservation of Middletown Valley, P.O. Box 922, Middletown, MD 21769-0922.

CPMV is a grass-roots, non-political, citizen's action organization seeking responsible and appropriate land use in Maryland's agricultural and historic Middletown Valley. CPMV has organized opposition to the DTI planned Middletown gas compressor facility since the project was first announced in late 2007. Its website is <http://www.cpmv.org/>.

The Civil War Preservation Trust is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promoting appreciation of these hallowed grounds through education and heritage tourism. Its website is <http://www.civilwar.org/>.