

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 29, 2024

Contact: Emily Huebner, emily@heartofthecivilwar.org, 240-608-5177

**Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Boundary Amended to Include
Historic African American Cemetery**

**Ellsworth Cemetery in Westminster now eligible for Heritage Area
benefits**

Westminster, MD - On January 11, 2024, members of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority approved the expansion of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWhA) boundaries to encompass the historic Ellsworth Cemetery, which was annexed by the City of Westminster in 2023. Ellsworth Cemetery was established in the late 1870s by African American veterans of the Civil War and it is the final resting place for many prominent Black residents of Carroll County. Due to the boundary amendment, the cemetery is now eligible for grant funding and technical assistance provided by HCWhA, which serves nonprofit organizations and government units within its boundaries in Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties. The mission of HCWhA--with its partners--is to preserve and promote the historic sites, towns, cultural landscapes, and diverse stories in Carroll, Frederick, and Washington County, Maryland.

Diane Boettcher, a retired US Navy Captain, became involved as a researcher with the cemetery out of a desire to serve her fellow veterans. Boettcher says, "We're excited to join the HCWhA and share the stories of the 17 Civil War Veterans and their families who help to shape our shared history of Carroll County, Maryland and the Nation."

Elizabeth Shatto, Executive Director of the HCWhA, says, "We applaud the expansion of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area boundary to include Ellsworth Cemetery, and look forward to supporting efforts to preserve and promote this storied place that was founded by slave descendant Civil War veterans."

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) is an independent unit of state government that operates in the Maryland Department of Planning. The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, a certified Maryland Heritage Area, is an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization encompassing parts of Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties.

XXX

**CARROLL
COUNTY**

Hampstead
Manchester
Mount Airy
New Windsor
Sykesville
Taneytown
Union Bridge
Westminster

**FREDERICK
COUNTY**

Brunswick
Burkittsville
Emmitsburg
Frederick
Middletown
Mount Airy
Myersville
New Market
Rosemont
Thurmont
Woodsboro

**WASHINGTON
COUNTY**

Boonsboro
Clear Spring
Funkstown
Hagerstown
Hancock
Keedysville
Sharpsburg
Smithsburg
Williamsport

22 S. Market Street, Suite 215
Frederick, MD 21701
info@heartofthecivilwar.org
heartofthecivilwar.org

