



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Your Event Calendars:

- **May 6-8 -- Civil War Encampment**, 2nd Delaware Volunteers Reenactment Unit, Court Street, Dover, DE. Cooking demonstrations, drills, Soldiers and Civilians, firing demonstrations and candlelight tours in the evenings, free admission. Event is in conjunction with the Dover Days Festival May 6-8. For information, call 302-734-1736.
- **May 6-8 -- "The Civil War: Five Delaware Soldiers' Stories,"** exhibit, First State Heritage Park Welcome Center, Dover, DE, recognizes the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War through Delaware's collection of objects, portraits and documents, personal experiences of the brutal journey through the War of the Rebellion. Take a look into the daily life of Delaware soldiers and examine complexities involved in their survival. Open Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 8, 1:30-4:30 p.m., free of charge. For information, call 302-739-9141.
- **Friday, May 6 -- Lecture and Reception for author of the new Civil War book 1861: *The Civil War Awakening*** written by Dr. Adam Goodheart, at Delaware State University's Martin Luther King Student Center in Dover, DE, sponsored by the Delaware Heritage Commission. For information, call 302-744-5077.

Dover Days Weekend, May 6-8

**CIVIL WAR 2ND DELAWARE VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REENACTORS
TO STAGE MAJOR ENCAMPMENT TO RECOGNIZE CIVIL WAR 150TH**

DOVER, DE -- Recognizing the Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the Civil War will be a highlight of this year's Dover Days Festival, May 6-8, set for the City of Dover, Delaware. A major Civil War encampment by the 2nd Regiment Delaware Volunteers (Reenactment Unit) will take place, allowing Dover Days visitors to step back in time to the year 1861 and see first-hand what it was like during the many dark days of our country's largest war on U.S. soil.

This full-scale encampment will be staged just off Court Street in Dover, east of Legislative Hall and adjacent to the Festival grounds. The event is free of charge and the public is encouraged to attend. Reenactors will also march in the Dover Days parade starting at 9:30 a.m.

The encampment will begin Friday evening and continue through Sunday morning. Visitors are welcome to join the camp for various hands-on activities and demonstrations including cooking, drills, storytelling, authentic period dress uniforms and civilian clothing, marching and firing.

Second Sgt. Bill Purdy explains: "We strive to be authentic and true to our mission that we really transform ourselves back in time; that's the experience we want to provide to those who join us May 6-8," he said. "We find that history is best learned by seeing and doing, and with the large number of families, children and hopefully Civil War enthusiasts who come out, everyone will get a real taste of what it was like to camp out, cook over live coals and live the way Delaware's Civil War soldiers actually from 1861-1866."

Since 1988, the 2nd Delaware Volunteers have been an active reenacting unit in Delaware. The 2nd Regiment Delaware Volunteer Infantry is one of the original reenactor units in Delaware and has many members with more than 10 years of experience. At the Battle of Antietam the 2nd Delaware Regiment was nicknamed the "Crazy Delawares" for their bravery and forward advance beyond the Bloody Lane. The 2nd Delaware portrays one of the finest units of all Union Infantry during the Civil War and are proud to represent them today.

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Delaware, especially considering its small size, provided a large number of fighting men to the Union cause during the American Civil War. The best sources within the State archives indicate that there were 11,236 white soldiers, 94 sailors and marines and a total of 954 African American soldiers from the First State, or a total of 12,284 Delawareans who fought for the Union out of total state population (male and female) of about 110,000 total according to the 1860 census. This number spans all branches of service including artillery infantry, cavalry, marines and sailors.

Members of the 2nd Delaware will also be recruiting potential new members during Dover Days weekend. Each year the unit provides a "school of soldier," which follows the original muster training activities of drill, firearm safety and the manual of arms. The training is performed in a manner consistent with the training of the Civil War period.

For more information about 2nd Delaware, visit www.2ndDelaware.com. For more information about the Dover Days Festival, visit www.doverdaysfestival.com or call 800-233-5368.

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