

Testimony of Congressman Jeb Bradley  
Before the Committee on Resources,  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands  
Regarding H.R. 1084 on May 12, 2005

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding a defining historical event for my state of New Hampshire, and indeed, all of the United States. The American Civil War was the deadliest war in all of American history with casualties totaling more than all other American Wars combined. The bloodiest day of the bloodiest war came on September 17, 1862 just outside the small town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. This battle involved 93,000 men and resulted in 23,000 American casualties on the fields surrounding Antietam Creek. Among the soldiers fighting that day were men of the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the First New Hampshire Light Artillery Battery. Unfortunately, these brave men who fought and died in the Battle of Antietam do not have a marker on the field to signify their sacrifice. New Hampshire is, in fact, the only state involved in the battle that does not have a monument on the battlefield as a testament to its heroic sons. As the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is approaching, I ask that this Committee help correct an unfortunate oversight and bring deserving recognition to these soldiers.

In this effort, Congressman Bass and I have introduced H.R. 1084, which would authorize the establishment of a Memorial at Antietam National Battlefield for the New Hampshire soldiers who fought in the historic battle. Importantly, this bill does not authorize any federal appropriations, nor require any local municipality in Maryland to help finance the costs of the construction or maintenance of the monument. Any monument built and maintained at the Antietam National Battlefield Park would be entirely paid for by private sources.

In closing, I would like to call to mind an excerpt from a report issued by a correspondent of the Manchester Daily Mirror on September 20, 1862.

“ For two hours there was never sharper musketry heard or seen, and New Hampshire blood flowed freely in the contest. The Ninth suffered terribly but never flinched, and every man stood before the awful carnage with out one thought of yielding.” Members of the committee, these men exemplified the steadfast bravery that is a hallmark of American soldiers across generations. On behalf of the citizens of New Hampshire, I ask for your assistance in helping to furnish a proper monument to these commendable Americans.