FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Volunteers Recognized for Five Years of Service at Newcomer House

Keedysville, MD – Six local volunteers were recognized yesterday for their service to the Heart of the Civil War. These individuals celebrated five years of volunteering at the Newcomer House, the Exhibit & Visitor Center for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) that is part of Antietam National Battlefield. Congratulations to the following honorees:

- Jose Acevedo of Taneytown, MD
- Tim Doyle of Hagerstown, MD
- Vernell Doyle of Hagerstown, MD
- Larry Freiheit of Berkeley Springs, WV
- Jim Hoke of Sharpsburg, MD
- Paula Horley of Sharpsburg, MD

The Newcomer House—which operates through a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service, Visit Hagerstown & Washington County, and Heart of the Civil War—depends on volunteers to teach visitors about the region's rich history and to provide information about additional heritage opportunities throughout the three-county Heritage Area. This corps of volunteers donated 1,425 hours in 2016, an estimated total value of \$33,573.

Volunteers will also be integral to the success of the <u>Newcomer House Illumination</u> taking place tomorrow, December 3. Held in conjunction with the annual Antietam Memorial Illumination, the individualized luminaries created by the public will be displayed on the Newcomer House grounds beginning at 2:00 PM. Youth volunteers from Girl Scout troop #40726 of Inwood, West Virginia will set up approximately 400 luminaries.

The Newcomer House is located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike in Keedysville, MD. For more information, contact Newcomer House Manager Rachel Nichols at rbknichols@gmail.com or (240) 308-1740.

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