



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 26, 2015

Contact: Rachel Nichols, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area: [rbknichols@gmail.com](mailto:rbknichols@gmail.com) or (240) 308-1740

Web: [bit.ly/newcomerillumination](http://bit.ly/newcomerillumination)

## Heart of the Civil War invites visitors to participate in Newcomer House illumination ceremony

SHARPSBURG, MD — On Saturday, December 5, the annual [Antietam Memorial Illumination](#) will honor the 23,110 soldiers killed, wounded or missing in the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. This year, a new feature will accompany the dramatic and moving commemoration. Starting today, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in the illumination that will take place on the grounds of the historic Newcomer House.

**CARROLL COUNTY**  
HAMPSTEAD  
MANCHESTER  
MOUNT AIRY  
NEW WINDSOR  
SYKESVILLE  
TANEYTOWN  
UNION BRIDGE  
WESTMINSTER

Visitors can dedicate their own luminary memorial—whether to a Civil War soldier, a current service member, or a loved one—at four locations in the weeks leading up to the annual ceremony:

- [Newcomer House](#), the Exhibit and Visitor Center for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, is open 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM each weekend. It is located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike in Keedysville.
- The [Visitor Welcome Center](#) in downtown Hagerstown, operated by the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The 6 N. Potomac Street location is open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday as well as 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturdays.
- The [Maryland Welcome Centers](#) on I-70 Westbound and Eastbound. The Welcome Centers on South Mountain are open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Thursday through Monday.

**FREDERICK COUNTY**  
BRUNSWICK  
BURKITTSVILLE  
EMMITSBURG  
FREDERICK  
MIDDLETOWN  
MOUNT AIRY  
MYERSVILLE  
NEW MARKET  
ROSEMONT  
THURMONT  
WOODSBORO

On the day of the event, visitors can stop by Newcomer House before 3:00 PM to create their luminaries. Girl Scout troop #40726 from Inwood, West Virginia and the Temple Youth of B'nai Abraham from Hagerstown will assist in lighting and maintaining these luminaries on December 5. These young stewards will learn about the Battle of Antietam and its continued significance through their service. The Newcomer House is located just a short distance from the event entrance on Route 34.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
BOONSBORO  
HAGERSTOWN  
HANCOCK  
SHARPSBURG  
SMITHSBURG  
WILLIAMSPORT

For more information about the Newcomer House illumination, contact Rachel Nichols.

###

151 S. EAST STREET  
FREDERICK, MD 21701  
INFO@HEARTOFTHECIVILWAR.ORG  
HEARTOFTHECIVILWAR.ORG  
301-600-4031  
800-999-3613 TOLL FREE