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|  |  |  | **For Further Information, Contact:****Gary Edmondson****(417) 881-9499** |

October 9, 2015

**VA to Bury Unknown Civil War Soldier at Springfield National Cemetery**

**What:** The Department of Veterans Affairs will conduct a committal service for a Civil War soldier whose affiliation could not be conclusively determined.

**Who:** Veterans, Civil War reenactors, local state and federal partners as well as the general public are invited to attend. The committal service will feature remarks by Springfield National Cemetery and National Park Service (NPS) officials and will include funeral honors.

**When:** October 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Springfield National Cemetery, Springfield, Missouri. The committal service will begin at the Cemetery rostrum and continue to Grave #286, Section 1 South.

**Contact:** Gary Edmondson**,** Administrative Officer,Springfield National Cemetery, (471) 881-9499

**Background:** In 2011, the NPS discovered the unearthed remains of an unknown Civil War soldier at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Because NPS administers the national battlefield, they conducted an investigation into the origin of the remains but were unable to determine the individual’s identity.

**-More-**

**Springfield National Cemetery 2/2/2**

 NPS is confident, based on artifacts recovered with the remains and the grave's orientation, that the remains are associated with the Civil War battle that took place at Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861. NPS was not able to determine whether the remains were those of a Union or Confederate soldier.

 In 1867, the federal government established a national cemetery on a five-acre tract purchased from the city of Springfield, Missouri. The Confederate Cemetery Association (CCA) donated six-acres to Springfield National Cemetery in 1911. Springfield National Cemetery contains both Union and Confederate casualties from the Battle of Wilson's Creek and other battles in the surrounding area.

 VA operates 132 national cemeteries, including one national Veterans burial ground and 33 soldiers’ lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico.  More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA’s national cemeteries.  VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve, and maintain 95 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan.  For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2014, VA honored more than 356,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

 Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the internet at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov), or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000.  To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, please call the Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.