

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

An America Heritage Land Preservation Organization

Theodore Sedgwick
Chairman

James Lighthizer
President

CWPT Board Resolution on the Status of Fort Monroe, Virginia

October 9, 2006

WHEREAS, the Civil War Preservation Trust ("CWPT") is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and safeguarding America's Civil War heritage. Since 1987, CWPT has helped to protect more than 23,000 acres of hallowed ground at key battlefields in 18 States, including over 11,000 acres in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

WHEREAS, CWPT recognizes the unique role of Fort Monroe, Virginia, during and after the Civil War; THAT, Fort Monroe provided a critical, continuous base for Union operations against the Confederate capital at Richmond throughout the war, and for the extension of Union control in the South's coastal regions; witnessed the epic USS Monitor and CSS Virginia clash of the ironclads in March 1862; and was the place of Jefferson Davis' imprisonment for two years.

WHEREAS, CWPT consequently concludes that this unique role in our Nation's history underscores the national significance of Fort Monroe and its environs to all citizens of the United States.

WHEREAS, the CWPT further finds that the heritage tourism potential of Fort Monroe and the importance of open space in the urban area surrounding it make Fort Monroe ideally suited for permanent protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: CWPT's Board of Trustees supports the establishment of a national park at Fort Monroe upon its scheduled closure as a U.S. Army installation in the year 2011. To that end, CWPT urges the Federal Government and the Commonwealth of Virginia to work cooperatively with the citizens of the Hampton Roads region and others to promptly initiate the appropriate study or studies to identify the most suitable and cost-effective format for a sustainable national park encompassing Fort Monroe and related lands and buildings on the Old Point Comfort peninsula

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