

Dear Mayor Barbee and Council Members,

This is a request for funding assistance in the amount of \$3,500 for the cost of erecting a Civil War Trails® interpretative sign at Carolina Beach State Park. The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table is a volunteer, nonpartisan association of people with a common interest in the history of the American Civil War and Reconstruction. Our membership consists, primarily, of individuals residing in the Lower Cape Fear region. We are now in our 30th year of operation and we are dedicated to broadening the knowledge, understanding, and interpretation of the Civil War era. We are pursuing this project in direct support of our mission.

Civil War Trails® has been working with communities since 1994 to share their stories and connect visitors with small towns and big stories across a network that now spans six states. With more than 1,500 sites, Civil War Trails® is the world's largest "open air museum." Travelers look to Trails to put them in the footsteps of the generals, soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved who found themselves in the midst of this Civil War.

The funds we request would be used to place a Civil War Trails® sign in Carolina Beach State Park that interprets the significance of the "Sugar Loaf Line." An extensive line of Confederate fortifications that stretched from the Sugar Loaf dune on the banks of the Cape Fear River to Myrtle Grove Sound near the Atlantic Ocean in the modern town of Carolina Beach.

A Union force of about 8,000 men, including two brigades of 3,300 U.S. Colored Troops, faced Confederate Gen. Robert F. Hokes' Division of 4,500 soldiers. On February 11, 1865 Union troops attacked the Sugar Loaf lines. Col. John W. Ames brigade of U.S. Colored Troops alone lost two officers and fourteen enlisted men killed, and seven officers and sixty-nine soldiers wounded in the Battle of Sugar Loaf. This was the most significant loss of life in any engagement between the fall of Fort Fisher and the fall of the city of Wilmington.

Studies in Virginia, Tennessee and Maryland show that history-related tourism generates millions of dollars in spending and, now, with the dramatic improvements at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the nationwide interest in the Boundless statue and memorial park at the Forks Road site on the grounds of the Cameron Art Museum, the addition of

highly professional interpretative signage related to the Sugar Loaf Line can be expected to materially increase interest in Carolina Beach as an historic destination. No longer will Carolina Beach be merely a place to pass through between Fort Fisher and Forks Road, it will be an illuminating stop that tells the story of the dramatic events between the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, and the fall of Wilmington on February 22, 1865.

Please contact me if you have questions or if I can provide additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Yelena B. Howell

Yelena Bulatova Howell
President
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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