



WHITESMOKE SUN / COURIER

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Rush to the Colors!

Just after Lincoln took the oath of office, he goaded the Confederates into firing on Fort Sumpter. The Civil War had begun. Believing it would be a short and victorious confrontation, Lincoln called for volunteers to put it down. He didn't count on Southern zeal. There was an emotional rush to the colors, but soon the sentiments cooled. One of the largest battles took place on May 4, 1864. As Grant's Union troops were headed to Richmond, they confronted Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The Battle of the Wilderness involved more than 100,000 Union troops and 61,000 Confederates. The fighting, according to National Park Service estimates, left more than 4,000 dead and 20,000 wounded. Some 2,700 acres of the Wilderness Battlefield are protected as part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Unfortunately, this hallowed battlefield is under threat from builders. Wal-Mart wants to build a Supercenter, a 138,000 square-foot store, within cannon shot of where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant first fought, a proposal that has preservationists rallying to protect this key Civil War site. Though the planned location of the store is a full mile from entrance to the site, it is still significant because the location was used as a staging area by Union troops. Mighty men of the 8th Louisiana, let us not forget the brave souls on both sides who fought gallantly for their country, but let us rush to the colors to preserve our few remaining hallowed battlefields. A call goes out, to take up the standard that so many before us have carried and fight to the last man to save these landmarks! Visit the Civil War Preservation Trust web site and get involved. Now is the time. For more information:

<http://www.civilwar.org/walmart08/>