



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★  
PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

These  
battlefields  
were the scenes  
of *three of the  
largest attacks*  
of the Civil War.

Now, *the  
battlefields  
themselves are  
under attack* —  
and threatened  
by development.

Men *fought* for  
these lands.  
Men *died* for  
these acres.

**WILL YOU  
GIVE TODAY  
TO HELP  
SAVE THEM?**

Dear Patriotic Friend,

Imagine having dinner for two at a nice restaurant and when the bill comes, only needing to pay \$7...

Imagine driving off the lot in your new \$30,000 car, after paying less than **\$2,800**...

Or filling your gas tank for only **\$5** ...

I'm guessing if those offers were presented to you, you'd take the deal every time. Especially these days with prices the way they are. I know I sure would ... and without a moment's hesitation.

**Well, my friend, we've been offered a similar "too-good-to-pass-up" deal to save precious battlefield land. And I hope you agree that we need to seize it while we can.**

Let me explain. Today, we have the opportunity to save 132 acres on three battlefields that were the scenes of three of the biggest charges of the Civil War. The total cost to purchase and preserve these lands? **\$1.67 million.**

But, thanks to grants and partners and a gift from one generous landowner, **every dollar we raise will be multiplied by 11!** Think of it this way ... your gift of \$50 would be worth \$550, and your gift of \$100 would be worth an incredible \$1,100.

As you know, we often have matching funds provided by our partners, and we're so grateful to be able to leverage those, maximizing each and every dollar you contribute to save hallowed ground.

But matches at this level — \$11-to-\$1 — don't come around very often, and we want to take full advantage of this opportunity.

So, we need your help to raise \$149,875 to save all 132 hallowed acres.

It's clear to me that you know your history. *And I think you also know value when you see it.* I don't know of any other organization in America that makes your money go further than the American Battlefield Trust!

When it comes to battlefield preservation, the land isn't saved until the contract is signed and all the money is raised. *And right now, we're running out of time to get to the closing table. Will you please make the most generous gift you can now, knowing every dollar you give will be matched \$11-to-\$1?*

*Here's what's at stake ...*

## ————— 35 Acres at Chaffin's Farm, New Market Heights —————

"*Battlefield View.*" That's what I imagine the developers would have called the townhomes they wanted to build on this site. The 35-acre tract is adjacent to the Richmond National Battlefield Park and was a Union attack field during the battle.

In late September 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant decided to strike General Robert E. Lee's supply lines at Petersburg, Virginia. To divert Lee's attention from that front, Grant feigned an attack on Richmond.



New Market Heights

© Noel Kline, American Battlefield Trust

General Benjamin Butler's Army of the James crossed its namesake, the James River, to assault the Richmond defenses. After initial Union successes on both fronts, including the capture of Fort Harrison, the Confederates rallied and contained the breakthrough. Lee reinforced his lines north of the James and attempted to recapture the fort on September 30, in an unsuccessful counterattack.

The Federals entrenched, and the Confederates erected a new line of works cutting off the captured forts. *As Grant anticipated, Lee shifted some 10,000 troops to meet the new threat against Richmond, weakening his lines west of Petersburg.*

To this day, the actions at Chaffin's Farm serve as an important reminder that the consequences of even a single battle play a larger role in the eventual outcome of the war. Just one month before, President Lincoln had been anticipating his own defeat in the 1864 election. The Union victory at Chaffin's Farm, bolstered by the heroic efforts of U.S. Colored Troops (14 of whom were presented the Congressional Medal of Honor), was among the victories that fall that helped Lincoln win reelection, which changed the course of American history.

## ————— Nine Acres at Petersburg (The Breakthrough) —————

Call it *The Breakthrough*. Call it *Petersburg*. But know this — many have called this battle "*The Confederate Alamo.*"

The action proved to be desperate and futile on the Confederate side, ultimately leading to the fall of Richmond and Petersburg.

In April 1865, after more than 290 days of siege, the city of Petersburg fell when the Union Sixth

Corps successfully breached Confederate lines held by Confederate General A.P. Hill, whose death site lies just a few miles from the tract we're working to protect today.

The Breakthrough at Petersburg remains one of the most consequential attacks of the Civil War because it resulted directly in the fall of Petersburg and the Confederate capital at Richmond.

Although we've conserved over 400 acres at Petersburg with your help, there is still hallowed ground on this major battlefield that is not fully and permanently protected. *The nine acres* we are working together to save now came up on the market within the last year, zoned for industrial development and warehouses!

With your gift today, multiplied by an astonishing 11-to-1, we can prevent this hallowed ground from that fate. We'll even save the land beneath the original 18th-century dwelling so our nonprofit partners can continue to operate it as a visitors' center. **But we need your help to make that happen!**

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## 88 Acres at Fort Blakely

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I talk to a lot of young folks and families at battlefields, and I'll be honest with you — outside Alabama, a lot of them don't know about the siege and assault on Fort Blakeley, in the final days of the campaign for Mobile, and why it's so important to American history. **Here's what I tell them:**

**First**, the Union troops included *one of the largest contingents* of African American soldiers to fight in any Civil War battle.

**Second**, *the ink was still drying* on the terms of surrender Robert E. Lee was signing at Appomattox when the attack took place. Men who had little left to fight for were still fighting with every ounce of their strength and spirit.

**Third**, it was a huge attack (and a massive mismatch), with more than 16,000 Federal troops storming fortified positions held by only about 3,500 Confederates, desperately trying to hold their ground so others could escape.

Miraculously, the earthworks they built are still intact on this tract. *But maybe not for much longer.* You see, this is waterfront property and it's coveted by developers. It's also the last and largest undeveloped tract at the battlefield, adjacent to 126 acres you've already helped to preserve.

We have one chance to save this property, expanding the boundaries of Fort Blakeley for future generations, **and I'm hoping you will help now!**

**As each of these three engagements makes so clear, all battles have consequences.** *The more we study them, the more we learn.*

The Union victory at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm played a role in Lincoln's reelection in 1864.



The Fight Before Mobile — Storming of Fort Blakeley, April 9, 1865.  
© Harper's Weekly

The Breakthrough may have been *the most consequential attack of the Civil War*, leading directly to the fall of Richmond.

The Battle for Fort Blakeley was *the last combined-force battle of the Civil War*, leading to the fall of the fourth-largest city in the Southern Confederacy.

But today, we must also consider the consequences of inaction. Over the last 160 years, literally thousands of battlefield acres have been lost, developed, and destroyed. Today, homes and warehouses sit on places where soldiers fought and died, highways pierce fields and forests where history was made, and pressures continue to mount to bulldoze and build on the battlefield acres we have left.

Thankfully, in recent years, a new kind of hero has emerged. ***You are a preservation hero.*** And I am deeply grateful for your patriotic commitment.

I wrote a moment ago that you clearly recognize value. An 11-to-1 match is an extraordinary value. And in these inflationary times, with land prices rising even faster than grocery prices, it's one we must seize!

But you also show **what you value**. *You know a nation that sells out its past betrays its future.* You honor the courage, character, and commitment of those who came before, and you do your part to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to learn their history where it happened.

One day soon, I hope to write to you to share that these lands have been protected in perpetuity. But today, we are running out of time. I need your help raising the last \$149,875 we need to preserve 132 battlefield acres, and I'm offering you the opportunity to have your support multiplied 11 times over. **Won't you please do what you can to help?**



'Til the battle is won,

*David N. Duncan*

David N. Duncan  
President

P.S. Next time you fill up the grocery cart with \$100 worth of groceries, I want you to imagine getting to the checkout and paying only \$9. **That's what an \$11-to-\$1 match does.** *It leverages your money, so we can achieve more.* And what you can achieve today is protecting and preserving 132 battlefield acres, the scenes of three battles with major and consequential attacks.

*This may be our last and biggest match of the year, so if you can possibly make your best gift now I truly hope you will.*

*Thank you for your heroic commitment!*