

PRESS RELEASE

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PARTNERS WITH SCOTTSDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT Hosts Essay Contest for the Sesquicentennial

In honor of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, which begins in 2011, the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table is partnering with the Scottsdale Unified School District with an essay contest to promote awareness of the Civil War among Scottsdale high school and middle school students. Cash prizes and awards are being offered.

The contest will help Scottsdale students gain a better understanding of the war's history and the fundamental conflicts that sparked it. It will also help students create a personal connection to the past. Students will be encouraged to submit essays addressing the theme: *Preserving 150 Years of History*, and discuss the importance of preservation efforts in protecting the memory of this moment in history. The essay start time is January 3 and end time is March 22. The first prize for high school is \$300 plus gifts and for middle school is \$100 plus gifts. Awards will be presented at the May meeting.

The Civil War Round Table is a preservation organization that has been active in Scottsdale for the past 33 years. Members meet at 6:45 PM, the third Tuesday of the month at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale, Arizona. The Round Table sponsors Civil War authorities from across the country to lecture at each meeting. Information about each speaker can be found on the Scottsdale Library calendar (library.ci.scottsdale.az.us) and the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table's website (www.scottsdalecwrt.vze.com).

Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service and one of the foremost Civil War historians in the world, will be present on January 17th, 2012; to kick-off the Sesquicentennial celebration. Bearss is a celebrated tour guide, lecturer, author and authority on all aspects of the Civil War. *Smithsonian Magazine* featured him in 2006 as "an American who made a difference". He has also been called "The Homer of the American Civil War." He was a featured commentator for Ken Burns' PBS Series "*The Civil War*" (1990), which is still the most popular program broadcast by that network to date.

The Round Table encourages a greater understanding and appreciation of this important time in U.S. History. The group also financially supports the Civil War Trust for the preservation of Civil War Battlefields. They feel it is important to maintain and preserve these battlefields so that our children and grandchildren can visit them and experience an emotional empathy with the men who fought and died to make this a great nation.

**For more information, contact Dr. John Bamberl at 602-430-4700
or the website at www.scottsdalecwrt.vze.com**