

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Steffanie Bell
609-777-2600

RELEASE: November 8, 1999

New Jersey to Restore Piece of Gettysburg History

Preserving another piece of New Jersey's history, Gov. Whitman today helped ensure that future generations will be able to appreciate and honor the valor and courage of veterans. The Governor signed legislation at the Old Barracks in Trenton that will dedicate over \$55,000 to restore and preserve the New Jersey monuments at Gettysburg National Park.

The Governor also announced that the state will pay the cost of installing display cases in the new Department of State building so that the extensive collection of Civil War flags that are part of the NJ State House Flag Collection can properly be displayed and appreciated.

"At few times was our nation's spirit so severely tested as during the tragic years of the civil war," said Governor Whitman. "Over 600,000 thousand lives were lost in that war - and during the Battle of Gettysburg alone, 51,000 men were killed, wounded or captured. 6,000 New Jerseyans lost their lives in the Civil War."

"Following the war, battle monuments were dedicated in honor of all those who lost their lives," she continued. "Now, more than a century later, many of these granite monuments are in need of repair. With this legislation, we will preserve New Jersey's battle monuments and honor the valor and sacrifice of those soldiers who fought to preserve the union."

A-3049, sponsored by Assemblymen Joe Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Guy Gregg (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Senators Diane Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Louis Bassano (R- Essex/Union), appropriates \$55,335 to the Department of Environmental Protection for the restoration and maintenance of the New Jersey battle monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park.

The appropriation will be used by the National Park Service to focus on the thirteen New Jersey monuments at the Pennsylvania park. Immediate restoration will be provided to the monuments with \$16,335 of the appropriation with the remainder kept as an endowment for future maintenance costs.

