

# VALOR on the BATTLEFIELD

## Hood's Brigade Battlefield Tour

April 14-18, 2026

1st & 2nd Manassas

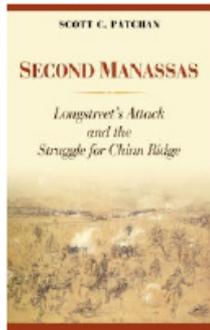
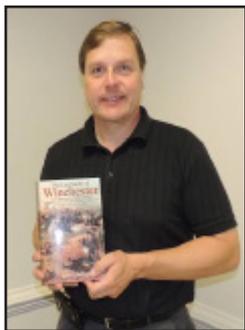
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania

\$650 per person • Due by April 4th, 2026



## Pivotal Civil War Battlefields • Enlightening Speakers • Camaraderie Galore!

Come join your fellow HTBAR patriots for an interactive and fascinating tour of key Civil War battlefields of Virginia. Immerse yourself into the walks and talks of battlefields where our ancestors bravely fought, survived, and/or died. Commemorate this time by enjoying 3 full days of education, entertainment, and enthusiasm. We will pay tribute to those who came before us especially soldiers from the Hood's Brigade and fellow Texans. Sign up now as we get a head start on celebrating America's 250th birthday. See you in Virginia!



Scott Patchan, Tour Leader

### Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Welcome Reception

- From 4-6 pm, Check in at the **Courtyard by Marriott, Dulles Airport, Herndon**. And stop by our HTBAR Registration Table inside the front entrance lobby.
- From 5-8 pm, we'll hold a **Welcome Reception** in the hotel's Conference Room, with soft drinks, hearty appetizers, and an overview of the tour. A CASH BAR will be available at the hotel's Bistro.

### Wednesday, April 15, 2016 Manassas

- From 630am-730am, Rise and Shine! Get your breakfast buffet early. At 745am we'll board the bus for an 8:00 departure for **Manassas Battlefields**. Our guide, **Scott Patchan**, will take us on a tour of both **1st and 2nd Manassas**.
- At 4:00pm, we'll gather at the privately erected **Timothy L. Dunklin Monument**, recently incorporated into the NPS. We will learn more about this brave Texas youth and the monument erected by his family in the 1870s. Presentation will by **Rick Eiserman, HTBAR Historian**.
- At 5:00pm, We'll board the motor coach and return to the hotel in time to change for our dinner buffet.
- After dinner, we will enjoy a presentation on Civil War-era Medicine by **Melissa Winn** of the National Civil War Medicine Museum in Frederick, Maryland.

## Tour Highlights

### Thursday, April 16, 2016 Fredericksburg

- From 630-730 am Breakfast is served! Then at 7:45 am we will board the bus for an 8 am departure for Fredericksburg (70 miles from Dulles Airport). We will enjoy a video program while we travel.
- **Greg Mertz** will be our guide at both Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania. We'll enjoy a box lunch at a spot chosen by Greg.
- At 3pm, we'll arrive at the **Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery**. We will hear from the **Ladies Memorial Association of Fredericksburg**, followed by a special tribute from the **Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp** of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV).
- At 5pm We'll board the bus for an early dinner at **Brock's Riverside Grill** in Fredericksburg, hosted by the **Rappahannock Civil War Round Table** (or the **Fredericksburg CWRT**), located on the Rappahanock River. Greg Mertz will continue a recap of the events at Fredericksburg.
- At 7pm we'll board the motor coach for the drive back to our hotel, where we can enjoy informal fellowship at the Bistro (on our own) or early to bed!



Greg Mertz, Tour Leader



Melissa Winn, Special Speaker

### Friday, April 17, 2026 Spotsylvania

- From 630-730am Breakfast is served! Then at 745am we'll board the bus for an 8 am departure for Fredericksburg (the battlefield is 80 miles from Dulles), We will enjoy a video program while we travel.
- Upon arrival at the battlefield, we'll again be met by Greg Mertz, who will give us a tour of **Spotsylvania Battlefield**.
- At 3pm, we'll hop back on the bus to **Spotsylvania Confederate Cemetery**, where we will meet the Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp, (SCV) for a special event.
- At 5pm we'll board the bus for an early dinner at **Brock's Riverside Grill** in Fredericksburg, We will be treated to a lecture and LIVE period music by **Geoff White**.
- At 7pm we'll board the motor coach for the drive back to our hotel, where we can enjoy informal fellowship at the Bistro (on our own) or early to bed!

### Saturday, April 18, 2026 Check-Out of Hotel

- After breakfast at hotel, you can check out, or you may wish to extend your touring experience.
- Hood's Texas Brigade Association has made special arrangements with the Courtyard Marriott for you to extend your stay at the special group rate for Saturday night. **See back page for speaker and reservation details.**

# VALOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD

## Registration

April 14-18, 2026

\$650 per person • Due by April 4th, 2026

3 Days • 4 Nights • Hotel & Airfare NOT included

**What is covered by pricing:** Includes speakers, guides, and docents; 4 breakfasts at hotel, 3 box lunches, 1 welcome reception, 3 dinners, bus transportation; and welcome packets. Air travel is at your preference and expense. Please book your room and pay the hotel directly. We recommend flying into Dulles Airport for travel convenience and complimentary round trip shuttle service from hotel.

### Payment by check made out to HTBAR.

Indicate "for 2026 HTBAR Tour."

**Payment by Square:** \$21 convenience charge for a total of \$671. Click on: <https://hoodstexasbrigadeassn.square.site/>

**Send check made out to HTBAR and 4 page Registration Form to:**

John Stevens, Treasurer  
2427 Pioneer Oaks Drive, Fresno, TX 77545  
John's telephone number and email:  
htbar1967@yahoo.com; telephone 713/885-5288

**INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!!!**

**For 4-page required Registration form:**

Contact John Stevens, Treasurer (see above)

## Hotel Reservations

Nearest Airport to Tour Hotel = Dulles

Hotel Reservations: COURTYARD by Marriott Dulles Airport

13715 Sayward Blvd., Herndon, VA 20171

**Deadline to make hotel reservations is 3/15/26. Mention group rate when booking. Recommend telephoning hotel: (571/643-0950).**

### Hotel Cost:

- \* \$151 per night + taxes for Hood's Brigade Group Rate
- \* Hotel has blocked 20 rooms and 4 ADA rooms for HTBAR
- \* 10 rooms KING single occ / 10 rooms Queen double occupancy
- \* 5 rooms blocked for Mon, 4/13 and Sat, 4/18 (group extension)
- \* Breakfast Buffet included in the rate

### Free Shuttle from Dulles to hotel

**Extension for Group Rate:** Extended for both Monday April 13th and Saturday April 18th

**Arrival:** Plan to arrive in time for the welcome reception

**For further information on the itinerary, contact**

**Thad Fine, Tour Coordinator, [tthdfn4@hotmail.com](mailto:tthdfn4@hotmail.com)**

## Registration Form

**Registrants will be expected to fill out a 4-page form.** This contains: Registration Information, with important contact and medical information, plus a Release with signature. Both can be sent by US Postal Service or scanned and sent as pdfs. We **must** have both the Registration Form and the Release Form for each participant before he or she may board the bus.

## Guides & Speakers

### Greg Mertz

Greg Mertz has an MS from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in Public Administration. He worked for four years at Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. He then transferred to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park where he worked for 36 years, 27 years as the Supervisory Historian, managing the park's visitor services. Greg is the author of *Attack at Daylight and Whip Them: The Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862*.

### Scott Patchan

A life-long student of military history, Scott C. Patchan is a graduate of James Madison University in the Shenandoah Valley. He is the author of many articles and books, including *The Forgotten Fury: The Battle of Piedmont* (1996), *Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign* (2007), and *Second Manassas: Longstreet's Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge* (2011). Patchan serves as a Director on the board of the Kernstown Battlefield Association in Winchester, Virginia, and is a member of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation's Resource Protection Committee.

### Melissa Winn

Melissa is the Director of Marketing and Communication at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick MD. Melissa has been a speaker at numerous Civil War conferences and has given interviews on CSPAN. Previously she worked for the American Battlefield Trust. She will bring artifacts to "show and tell" to the evening program.



Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery  
and the  
Ladies' Memorial Association



The Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery, owned and maintained by the Ladies' Memorial Association of Fredericksburg, was dedicated in May of 1870 to the 3,353 Confederates who were killed on four area battlefields and reinterred here. They came from 14 Southern states.

### Rick Eiserman

Rick Eiserman, HTBAR Historian, is a long-time Civil War student and collector with a special interest in Hood's Texas Brigade. During a 20-year U.S. Army career, Lieutenant Colonel Eiserman (Ret) served in various command and staff positions in Europe, Korea and the US, including assignments as a military historian/ instructor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army Military History Institute. He co-authored with Susannah Ural the lead article in the August, 2011 *Civil War Times*, "The Winter that Made the Texas Brigade" and, in the same issue, his article "We Have Had A Picture Taken" identified for the first time the photographer of Texas Brigade winter cabins in Dumfries, VA. Recently, he has been researching the monument in honor of Tim. Dunklin. He lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and is active in the Carlisle Civil War Round Table.

### Geoff White

Steeped in the traditions of Appalachian and Celtic fiddling, Geoff combines them with his classical violin training, and a touch of Cajun spice. Geoff plays standards from the Celtic fiddling tunebook, as well as Appalachian Old-Time and Bluegrass songs. He also mixes in songs from popular movies and shows (think *Outlander* and *Game of Thrones*).

Geoff was trained in classical violin in Western North Carolina starting at the age of four. As he grew older, he discovered he could apply what he learned to the Celtic music he and his grandmother loved so much. Benefitting from the environment around him, he also incorporated elements of Bluegrass, Old-Time, and the Cajun music his father listened to. The result, after years of honing his style, is an authentic and unique American style of fiddling. Geoff's main instrument is a Bohemian (modern Czech Republic) fiddle from the early 1800's. Geoff plays a German copy of a Vuillaume bow.