

Written by Administrator
Monday, 25 October 2010 07:14 -

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 25 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization reaffirmed his group's opposition to a proposed casino near the Gettysburg battlefield.

"As a free nation, I respect the right of people to disagree but there is a misperception among some that because a few local veterans support the casino that The American Legion supports it," said National Commander Jimmie L. Foster. "Gettysburg was a decisive and major battle in the War Between the States. Those who died there hailed from all the existing states of the Union and Confederacy. Saying that protecting the memory of these heroes is a 'local issue' is like calling the Civil War a 'local disturbance.' We realize that there is a lot of money backing the casino, but honor is not for sale."

Although the proposal advanced by a Gettysburg business developer would place the casino a half-mile from the 6,000-acre Gettysburg National Military Park, preservationists point out that the site would be next to where Union cavalry advanced toward the South Cavalry field – a substantial scene of the fighting.

Foster emphasized that The American Legion is sympathetic to economic hardships that have affected the area. "We are not 'anti-casino.' We are 'pro-veteran.' We simply believe it should be built farther away from the field that Abraham Lincoln called 'consecrated' ground. There are other locations in the state that want to host the facility. We hope that officials see the importance of protecting the sanctity of that special place in American history."

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) hopes to reach a decision before the end of the year after a series of public meetings. Foster said that most of the feedback that his organization has received from veterans outside the Gettysburg area has been overwhelmingly supportive of The American Legion's position.

The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Veterans

Legion on Gettysburg Casino: 'Honor not for sale' - PR Newswire (press release)

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Media contacts: □ Joe March or John Raughter (317) 630-1253, cell (317) 748-1926 /(317) 441-8847. □ A high resolution photo of National Commander Foster is available at

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