



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

1555 South Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161-9746

Whitman Center

7777 Lewis Avenue
Temperance, MI 48182

www.monroeccc.edu

Contact:
Joe Verkennes,
Director of Marketing,
(734) 384-4207

October 18, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION SET
FOR DEDICATION OF NATIONAL PARK**

Levin, Dingell to Deliver Keynote

MONROE, Mich. – A community-wide celebration to officially dedicate Monroe’s new River Raisin National Battlefield Park will be held Friday in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater on Monroe County Community College’s Main Campus.

The celebration will begin with a reception at 10 a.m. in the La-Z-Boy Center atrium, followed by a program in the theater at 11 a.m.

The reception and the program are free and open to the public.

Special guests of honor Sen. Carl Levin and U.S. Rep. John Dingell will deliver the keynote.

MCCC President Dr. David E. Nixon will serve as emcee of the event, which will feature music by the MCCC College/Community Symphony Band, a Sacred Soil Ceremony and additional presentations by National Park Service representatives and other elected officials and dignitaries. The 1st Michigan Fife and Drum Corps will also perform.

On Tuesday, local officials deeded about 45 acres of land to the federal government in an historic ceremony leading to the creation of the national park.

(more)

The site of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812. Out of nearly 1,000 American troops who participated in the engagement, only 33 escaped death or capture. This event, arguably the largest land engagement of the war, gave birth to the emotional rallying cry “Remember the Raisin,” which spurred the American forces on to victory at the Battle of the Thames nine months later.

In the almost 200 years since the fighting ended, the battlefield was developed for commercial purposes, serving as home to a paper mill at the turn of the last century. Demolition crews recently brought down the paper mill, and now the site will be developed into an interpretive park over the next several years.

The dedication celebration is presented by the Monroe County Historical Society, Monroe County Community College, War of 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee and the DTE Energy Foundation.

###