

*For Immediate Release*

## **Fioravanti Fine Art Announces Initiative to Benefit Antietam & Monocacy Battlefields**

Sharpsburg, MD (July 9, 2004) — Nationally recognized historical landscape / preservation artist Jeff Fioravanti, announced today, the creation of a partnership with the Western Maryland Interpretive Association (WMIA) to develop and create a series of paintings, programs and products to benefit WMIA efforts to protect and preserve Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields.

Forever etched in our nation's history, Antietam is thought by many historians to be the turning point in the Civil War, while Monocacy is known as "The Battle That Saved Washington." Fioravanti and WMIA share a common bond regarding the importance of these historic lands, and it is this shared vision that has helped to inspire this initiative.

"The physical landscape of these battlefields – their woods, fields, and waterways – are forever connected with the struggles that occurred there," said Fioravanti. "I look forward to working with WMIA to create a series of products and images that in their own way will help tell the story of these precious lands, and contribute to their preservation and protection," continued the artist.

"Jeff's emphasis on portraying places rather than people is a compelling way to convey the sacrifice connected with these grounds," noted Bob Casey, WMIA executive director. "Places such as the Cornfield and Sunken Road are today a quiet testament to our Civil War past. We're grateful for the preservation commitment of Jeff Fioravanti to Antietam, Monocacy, and the many other Civil War sites throughout our country," Casey stated.

The collaboration will offer a fresh and innovative approach to how civil war battlefields are interpreted and presented through art, to the public at large. Instead of focusing on the death and destruction that occurred upon these lands, the artist will offer a more tranquil and reflective experience for the viewer, that should appeal to both the history buff and non-buff alike. This broader appeal approach is hoped to show these locations as more than just battlefields, and to bring a wider awareness to the threats endured daily by our nation's historic treasures.

The initiative will officially kick off during the weekend commemorating the 142nd anniversary of Antietam, and will feature a fundraising donation, by the artist to the WMIA, of a signed and numbered, limited edition Giclee print, from his original painting entitled: "Burnside's Bridge." In addition to this September 17, 2004 initial kick off program, plans are being developed and put in place for several events and activities in 2005 and beyond.

The artist is no stranger to helping and painting Maryland's historic sites. In the past two years, he's created several images of Antietam as part of his historical landscape series, and has also helped to raise nearly \$5,000, with sales of his artwork, for the programs and displays at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, located in Frederick, Maryland. He is also a member of the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center also located in Frederick, Maryland.

To learn more about WMIA and Jeff Fioravanti, and the efforts to protect Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields, please utilize the contact information noted below.

WMIA is the nonprofit cooperating association for Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields. The mission of the WMIA is to enhance the understanding of the battles, help provide the best possible experience for park visitors, and raise funds to preserve Antietam and Monocacy. For more information on the WMIA, please visit <http://www.antietampartner.com> or call 301/432-4329.

Jeff Fioravanti is an award-winning artist, who belongs to several preservation groups and prestigious art organizations throughout the United States, and is included in Who's Who in America. To learn more

about Jeff Fioravanti, and to see a sampling of his artwork, including his historical landscape series, please visit <http://www.fioravanti-fineart.com>, or contact the artist at 781/595-5961 or via email [jfiorava@concentric.net](mailto:jfiorava@concentric.net).