

National Civil War Museum Advisory Council Member

<u>Member Contact</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
<p>Dr. John A. Latschar Superintendent</p> <p>Dr. John A. Latschar has been the Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park since 1994. He is responsible for the long-term strategic planning as well as day-to-day operations for the battlefield and the Eisenhower National Historic Site.</p> <p>Dr. Latschar’s responsibilities include coordination with local organizations and officials, state agencies and members of Congress, and he maintains close working relationships with organizations that contribute to and support the National Park Service’s efforts at Gettysburg, such as the Gettysburg Foundation, Main Street Gettysburg, the National Parks and Conservation Association, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.</p> <p>Dr. Latschar is a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS). He has been recognized by the NPS for his leadership numerous times, including being named Superintendent of the Year for the Northeast Region of the NPS in 1991 and in 2001, Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship in 2003, and the NPS award for Cultural Resource Stewardship in 2000.</p> <p>Dr. Latschar earned both his bachelor’s of art and master’s of art in history from Kansas State University. He was awarded a Ph.D. in American History from Rutgers University in 1978.</p> <p>He is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in action there in the U.S. Army during 1970-1971. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1994.</p> <p>Since 1933, the National Park Service has cared for Gettysburg National Military Park as a symbol of America’s struggle to survive as a nation, and as a lasting memorial to the armies and soldiers who served in that great conflict. The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the Civil War. The Union victory in the summer of 1863 that ended General Robert E. Lee’s second and most ambitious invasion of the North was the war’s bloodiest battle with 51,000 casualties. It also provided President Abraham Lincoln with the setting for his most famous address.</p> <p>The park has experienced a period of transition beginning with the rehabilitation of the battlefield landscape and construction of a new Museum and Visitor Center, which was completed in Spring 2008. The battlefield rehabilitation project returned the Gettysburg landscape as close as possible to its 1863 appearance. The Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center was funded through donations coordinated by the Gettysburg Foundation. The newly renovated Gettysburg Cyclorama opened to the public in late September of 2008.</p> <p>The life of the Civil War soldier is a main feature of the new Museum and Visitor Center. Many of the objects on display are directly related to the people and places highlighted in each display case. Thousands of items in the collection relate to the Civil War soldier.</p> <p>Gettysburg National Military Park offers a full range of summer programs (mid-June through mid-August), battlefield walks, evening campfire programs, and other special events including living history groups and band concerts.</p> <p>For more information, visit www.nps.gov/gett/</p>	<p>Gettysburg National Military Park</p>	<p>Gettysburg, PA</p>