

# National Patriotic Page for September 2012 SUVCW

The Battle of Antietam : The 150th Anniversary : Why it matters Today  
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One of the most important days in American History is today not remembered or thought about by most Americans. September 17, 1862 was a terrible day for both North and South in the Civil War, and its lasting effect has in more ways than one touched all of our lives down to the present day.

The Battle in our Civil War fought at Antietam was and still is The Bloodiest Day in our History. There were as most Historians, agree about 23,000 Casualties on both sides. I am not going to describe the Battle itself, but rather will attempt to discuss its impact on our Nation to this day. The First major invasion upon Northern soil by Confederate forces was repelled and prevented a lot of things from possibly occurring, as well as giving President Abraham Lincoln a "Victory" to announce The Coming of The Emancipation Proclamation.

While many would argue about who "won" the Battle, it did at least stop The First Major invasion of The Army of Northern Virginia into Northern Soil. The Union Army lost about 25% of their force and The Confederate Army about 31% of their forces. The true importance of this attempted invasion is that had The Southern forces succeeded many advantages would have been presented to The South. With a victory of this type, it is very possible The Powers of both Great Britain and/or France would or could have Allied Themselves with The South. The Military and Political Consequences for The North may have led to a very different result in the end of The War.

It is very difficult to see a clear Union Victory if these things had occurred. With the issue of The Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln told not only our nation but the world that as we fought to preserve The Union, the Scourge of Slavery would be removed and destroyed. The Nations of The world seeing this, would have reservations about allying themselves with a Confederacy that still had Slavery. These possible options for The south finally were diminished and The War went on solely between The North and South.

With the Attacks of September 11,2001, The Nation once again thought about Antietam. As that horrible day was compared to Sept 17,1862, it brought into perspective and reality the terrible losses on both of these days. As we are the Nation we are, we did not fall back and collapse, but rather took a stand and united together. We came out burying our dead, and responded with a sense of common purpose to defeat our enemies. Lest us always remember these pivotal events as days that we keep and honor in our collective memory as events that inspire us to Love and serve our Nation as well as one another in our Daily lives.

LEST WE FORGET.

God Bless These United States Of America, now and always.