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Roanoke County Accepts Award for Civil War Anniversary *Regional Sesquicentennial Committee Honored at Virginia State Capitol*

ROANOKE COUNTY, VA (May 25, 2015) – In a ceremony today at the Virginia State Capitol, Roanoke County Special Events Coordinator Wendi Schultz accepted a leadership award honoring efforts made by our region to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Over the past six years, hundreds of regional organizations have participated in events and activities created in conjunction with the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. The Leadership Recognition Awards presented today recognize a handful of committees throughout the Commonwealth who went above and beyond in their efforts to support this program.

Although Southwest Virginia is not necessarily known for a rich civil war legacy, Roanoke County staff and volunteers organized two unique special events which brought the area's hidden history to life. In the spring of 2011, *Civil War Homes Then and Now* showcased dozens of antebellum homes and historical buildings, opening them up to the public for a two day historical driving tour. Then in the winter of 2013, *Civil War Music Brought to Life* demonstrated period culture through an educational family program.

Wendi Schultz spearheaded these efforts, with the help of an auxiliary committee of local historians and volunteers. According to Schultz, the events made a tremendous impact. "Our events engaged the entire community through participatory learning opportunities. We were able to touch the lives of both young and old, while showcasing our area's unique contribution to history."

Today's award ceremony in Richmond marks the culmination of a six-year, statewide effort to commemorate the Civil War. Following the award presentation, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra played on the Capitol steps in a concert that brought together music, songs, images and narration exploring the profound impact of the war.



Shown in period garb during the Civil War Homes Tour, Wendi Schultz is Roanoke County's Special Events Coordinator.

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