

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

JULY 20 - 26, 1862

From the Clarksburg Telegraph

An Appeal to West Virginians to Volunteer in the Service of the Country.

Responding to a call from President Abraham Lincoln for 300,000 additional troops, Restored Government of Virginia Gov. Francis H. Pierpont offered \$2 to any Virginian who volunteered to fight the Confederates.

Pierpont's July 16, 1862, proclamation offered another \$25 to each enlistee who passed a physical examination, and he offered to pay them a monthly salary advance of \$13.

Recognized by the federal government as the leader of Virginia following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union, Pierpont hoped to

entice at least 2,000 Virginians willing to commit to at least three years of military service. The governor said in his proclamation that "Your sister states are nobly responding by voluntary enlistment. Let it not be said that it was left for Virginia to furnish her quota by resorting to a draft."

Pierpont also urged Virginians to "Fly to assist your brave brethren in this last struggle for home, country, and constitutional freedom, and secure forever, to ourselves and to our children, the priceless legacy bequeathed to us by our fathers."

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.

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