

O. James Lighthizer
President, Civil War Trust

O. James Lighthizer – Jim’s years of public service began in 1979 when he was elected to the Maryland State Legislature. In 1982, he was elected to the first of two terms as Anne Arundel County Executive, where he successfully managed a full-service budget in excess of \$800 million. During his tenure as county executive, he established a county farmland protection program preserving over 2,500 acres. He also embarked on an aggressive waterfront park acquisition effort resulting in the purchase of over 900 acres and 7 miles of waterfront in the county. In 1986, he was reelected, with 80 percent of the vote.

In 1991, Jim was appointed as Maryland’s Secretary of Transportation. Jim created an unprecedented program that to date has saved more than 4,500 acres of Civil War battlefield land in Maryland and is the national model for the use of Transportation Enhancement funds for battlefield preservation. During his term as Chairman of the Governor’s Greenways Committee in Maryland, Jim created Greenways throughout Maryland.

When Jim took the reins at the Civil War Trust in November 1999, the fledgling organization had 22,000 members and its predecessor organizations had saved 7,000 acres in the previous 13 years. During Jim’s tenure as President of the Trust, the group has saved an additional 31,500 acres, and now boasts 200,000 members and supporters nationwide. Jim was also the architect of the rescue of the Slaughter Pen Farm on the Fredericksburg Battlefield – the most ambitious private battlefield preservation effort in American history.

According to Linda Wheeler in a January 2003 *Washington Post* article: “Jim Lighthizer knows about saving battlefields. As president of the Civil War Trust, he is devoted to the cause and has learned that a passion for history is not enough. ‘When it gets down to land, it’s all about money,’ he said. “There is nothing else to it. Good intentions in land preservation are just that. They get you nowhere.””

In an April 2005 *National Geographic* article, Adam Goodheart wrote: “If the romantic and perhaps doomed cause of saving America’s Civil War battlefields can be said to have its own Robert E. Lee—a strategist who time and again snatched victory from the jaws of defeat—he is a man named James Lighthizer. The only catch is that in person Lighthizer seems better to resemble Ulysses S. Grant, a hard-driving, cigar-chomping politico straight off the pages of a gilded age broadsheet. As president of the Civil War Trust, Lighthizer has become adept at fighting many foes on many fronts all at once.”