

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

AUG. 24 - 30, 1862

After voluntary enlistments failed to attract enough recruits, Virginia Gov. John Letcher issued a proclamation on Aug. 30, 1862, ordering all men between the ages of 35 and 45 to rendezvous at conscription camps in 40 Virginia counties.

In instituting the draft, the governor said

his goal was to “expel from our soil its invaders, who are waging against us a warfare of destruction, of confiscation and robbery with bitterness and fury.”

The governor urged all people living in western Virginia “to come out from among the common enemy and unite themselves, as becomes true sons of Virginia.”

Letcher warned that the enemy was an immense force that must be met with adequate resistance, and he challenged all civil and

military officers of the state to do everything within their powers to quickly raise and prepare enough troops for battle.

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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