

## Congressman Rogers and Local Advocate Push for Mill Springs Battlefield to Become National Monument

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-05) invited Bill Neikirk, Pulaski County native and founding president of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association (MSBA), to Washington this week to testify before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands on behalf of the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument Act. Rep. Rogers filed the bill, H.R. 5979, in an effort to highlight the national historical significance of the Civil War battleground spanning Wayne and Pulaski counties. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell filed a companion bill for the battlefield in the Senate.

"Though the Mill Springs Battlefield Association has maintained the battlefield since 1992, we appreciate the National Park Service's ability and expertise to generate tourism, and believe that the Park Service is best positioned to maintain the battlefield into the future," said Neikirk in his testimony. "In recognition of this, we would like to ask the Committee to support Congressman Rogers' bill, H.R. 5979, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument as a unit of the National Park System (NPS)."

In 1991, the National Park Service identified Mill Springs Battlefield as one of the 25 most endangered battlefields in America, prompting Neikirk to develop the MSBA.

"MSBA is unique in that we are not asking the Park Service to take over undeveloped battlefield land, nor buy the land. In contrast, we hope to donate the National Park Service the 900 acres with miles of well-kept interpretive trails, a marked driving tour, and a visitor's center/museum," Neikirk continued. "The Mill Springs Battlefield Association will continue as a friends group in support of the battlefield, as our dedication to preserving & protecting the battlefield will not change when this hopefully becomes a National Monument."

To honor the site, Mill Springs Battlefield was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark District in 1993, but its addition to the NPS will provide much-needed federal support to maintain the site.

"I would like to thank Bill Neikirk, the Founder of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, for taking the time to be here today to testify. He has been the driving force behind the continued preservation of the Mill Springs Battlefield," said Rep. Rogers. "The site of the Mill Springs Battlefield is currently maintained by the MSBA. Since its founding in 1992, MSBA has steadfastly preserved and protected the battlefield for future generations. They currently own more than 900 acres, and even built a \$1.7 million, 10,000-square foot visitor center and museum at the site. While MSBA is currently doing an exemplary job in maintaining the battlefield, it simply does not have the financial resources to adequately preserve and maintain the site in perpetuity."

"I'd like to thank the other members of the Kentucky Delegation—both here in the House, and in the Senate, who have supported my efforts to add Mill Springs to the National Park System—particularly Leader McConnell, who recently introduced a Senate companion to this bill."

On Wednesday, the committee will vote on the bill to send it on to the full House for consideration.

## Beshear Alleges Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Created Dangerous Opioid Market in Kentucky for Profit Despite Addiction Risks

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 12, 2018) – Attorney General Andy Beshear today filed suit against St. Louis-based pharmaceutical manufacturer Mallinckrodt for profiting from its massive supply of opioids to Kentucky doctors and patients for decades despite knowing and misrepresenting the addictive nature of their drugs.

The lawsuit alleges Mallinckrodt, founded in 1867 and one of the earliest producers of morphine and codeine, sold and promoted its opioids by falsely claiming the drugs could be taken in higher doses without disclosing the greater risks of potential addiction. Beshear said this action allowed the company to grow its market in Kentucky while contributing to the state's drug epidemic.

"Our lawsuit alleges Mallinckrodt's dangerously false marketing of its opioids correlates directly to the skyrocketing addiction, overdoses and deaths in Kentucky," Beshear said. "The company generated over \$3 billion in revenues in 2017, and we are seeking to hold them accountable under Kentucky law by making them pay for the damages caused to our state and Kentucky families."

Today's lawsuit filed in Madison Circuit Court is the seventh opioid related lawsuit Beshear has filed.

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wingate ruled this week that he would not dismiss Beshear's 2016 lawsuit against manufacturer Endo Pharmaceuticals regarding its drug Opana ER. The suit alleges Endo, who asked for the dismissal, violated state law and directly contributed to opioid related deaths and overdoses in Kentucky.

Beshear said similar to Endo, Mallinckrodt unlawfully built a market for the chronic use of opioids in the name of increasing corporate profits, knowing all along the dangers.

In his lawsuit against Mallinckrodt, Beshear claims that in promoting its branded opioids, the company consistently mischaracterized the risk of addiction and presented deceptive messages to Kentucky prescribers through patient guides, websites, marketing materials and its sales representatives.

Beshear said the company makes claims, without evidence, that long-term opioid use "helps enable patients to stay in the workplace, enjoy interactions with family and friends and remain an active member of society," according to the company's website.

The lawsuit alleges that the company directed "front groups" to promote opioid use and combat efforts to restrict opioid prescribing and that it failed to report suspicious orders of opioid supplies into Kentucky.

"While an agreement with the DEA currently prevents us from releasing a total number of doses sent to Kentucky, I can tell you that number is egregious and large enough to potentially cause addiction in every man, woman and child. In 2017, Mallinckrodt agreed to pay \$35 million to the federal government for violating federal reporting laws and entered into an accountability agreement with the DEA. Beshear's lawsuit claims Mallinckrodt willfully violated Kentucky law by failing to report suspicious orders.

In total, the program has the potential to dispose of more than 2.2 million unused opioids.

# Thank YOU All!



We would like to thank all of our friends and family, and especially you, our readers. It has been an honor to bring you Jackson County's news for the past 16 years and we look forward to many more.

## Kentucky Priorities at the Center of the National Discussion

Courtesy of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

Whenever the Senate is not in session, I enjoy working at home in Kentucky and hearing first-hand from my constituents. During the July state work period, I again traveled across Kentucky to meet with families, veterans, workers and students. I'm proud to represent them in Washington and always appreciate spending time with them in the Commonwealth. These conversations help me – as Senate Majority Leader – keep Kentucky's priorities at the center of national attention.

During those visits back home, I was proud to discuss the numerous victories President Trump and I have secured for Kentucky. I also shared my vision for what we can accomplish in the coming months.

In Ashland, I sat down with a number of community members to hear how this Republican Congress' pro-growth policies are helping to get the economy back on the right track. I've proudly partnered with leaders in Ashland on a number of projects, like securing more than \$10 million for the Veteran's Riverfront Park. It's been just over six months since President Trump signed historic tax reform into law, and during that time, Kentucky's unemployment rate hit its lowest point in 42 years. Millions of Americans are enjoying increased benefits, bonuses or raises because of tax reform, including many I've heard from right here in Kentucky.

During my visit to Danville, a student asked me about our efforts to keep schools safe. After the recent shooting in Marshall County, Kentuckians are painfully aware of the need to protect our young people while at school. I was proud to sponsor the bipartisan, commonsense legislation Congress passed earlier this year to provide over \$2 billion for threat assessment, mental health programs and improvements to school security infrastructure. Working with local, state and federal partners, we must fully commit to protecting Kentucky's students and teachers.

Next, I had the opportunity to meet with constituents from Pulaski, Russell and Casey counties. I reaffirmed my commitment to fighting the devastating opioid epidemic. Earlier this year, I negotiated an agreement to allocate an historic amount of resources for prevention, treatment, and enforcement efforts. After hearing from my constituents about the damage drug addiction is having on Kentucky's workforce, I also introduced the "CAREER Act", which aims to help recovering addicts find a stable job, a safe place to live, and maintain long-term sobriety. Together, I'm hopeful we can save more lives.

While in Louisville, I toured Sunstrand, a hemp processor and manufacturer, and it was encouraging to see their innovative work. The Senate recently passed its Farm Bill, which included my provision on industrial hemp. Building upon my work in 2014 to help establish pilot programs, it will legalize hemp as an agricultural commodity and help farmers explore the crop's potential. I look forward to getting this provision and the larger Farm Bill to President Trump's desk soon for his signature.

Many Kentuckians have raised with me the need to enhance our nation's border security. Along with a number of my Senate colleagues, I introduced the "Keep Families Together and Enforce the Law Act" that would keep families together as their immigration status is being determined. Our legislation would also continue to ensure the integrity of our laws in our immigration system. And we are working to fund border security and other enforcement measures to help keep our nation safe.

Finally, I had the chance to discuss what will be the Senate's focus in the coming months: the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. I was proud to be at the White House when President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be an Associate Justice. He is a superb candidate with an impressive background and a deep respect for the Constitution. He is exactly the sort of principled, legal mind we need on the Supreme Court, and I look forward to his confirmation hearing.

I value every opportunity I get to leave Washington and return home to spend time with my constituents. I take seriously the many opinions I hear – both the compliments and the criticisms – while representing our state. Please know that these conversations will help guide me as I continue to lead the Senate through the numerous priorities that lie ahead.

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