

# Fredericksburg National Military Park



**“Lee to the rear!”**



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*Battle of the Wilderness*

Date: May 6, 1864

On May 6, 1864, Union troops routed Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in the Wilderness. Disaster loomed. In an effort to stop the enemy advance, Lee attempted to lead a counterattack, but the Texas Brigade would not permit him to join them in the desperate attempt. With cries of “Lee to the rear!” they forced their beloved commander to retire. They then continued forward, losing 70 percent of their men.