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**Fort Fisher Presents “The Lights of the Great Armada: the  
147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of For Fisher” on Jan. 21-22, 2012**

KURE BEACH —As part of the state’s observance of the NC Civil War Sesquicentennial, Fort Fisher State Historic Site will host “The Lights of the Great Armada: the 147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher” on January 21-22, 2012. This two-day event will highlight the largest amphibious assault of the Civil War with a Navy and Marine living history program that will include small arms and artillery demonstrations throughout the weekend, a period torpedo exhibit, as well as special presentations focusing on the Union and Confederate sailors and marines who fought at Fort Fisher in January, 1865.

Among the guest speakers will be Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Chief Historian for the United States Coast Guard. The author of several books and dozens of articles on the Civil War, Dr. Browning will present “*None can be more vigilant than we are...the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron during the Civil War.*” Also presenting will be Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Deputy Archaeologist, NC Office of State Archaeology, who will discuss the blockade runner *Modern Greece*, and Larry Bopp and Steve Bockmiller of the US Marine Corps Historical Company and Ship’s Company.

The program is free both days (although donations are appreciated) and hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. All Fort Fisher programming is made possible by support from the Friends of Fort Fisher, a nonprofit group. Fort Fisher, the largest earthen fortification in the Confederacy, once protected the port of Wilmington and the vital blockade running trade on the Cape Fear River. After two massive bombardments the fort fell to a Union infantry assault on January 15, 1865. With the capture of Fort Fisher, Wilmington’s port – “the Lifeline of the Confederacy” – was closed to foreign trade.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site is located at 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd S, Kure Beach, N.C. 28449. For more information on the site, call (910) 458-5538 or visit the web site [www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/). Fort Fisher State Historic Site is part of the Division of State Historic Sites in the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, which annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation’s first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the N.C. Arts Council, and the State Archives.

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources serves as a champion for North Carolina’s creative industry, which employs nearly 300,000 North Carolinians and contributes more than \$41 billion to the state’s economy. To learn more, visit [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).



*Robert M. Browning, Jr., Chief Historian, USCG (Photo courtesy of USCG)*