

# LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

## CROW AGENCY, MT



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument memorializes a famous battle between the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes in southeastern Montana. In 1876, Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer and hundreds of soldiers died fighting roughly 8,000 warriors struggling to preserve their way of life.

It is also home to the Custer National Cemetery where soldiers from the Battle of Little Bighorn, the Spanish-American War, both World Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War were laid to rest. More than 5,000 veterans and their loved ones are buried at the site with graves dating back to 1876.

### BY THE NUMBERS OVER THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT:

**\$58,000**

Achieved in cost savings

**1,280**

Logged project hours

**16**

Employed crew members



Thanks to a partnership between the Montana Conservation Corps, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Corps Network, and the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center, two HOPE Crew projects—including HOPE Crew's first all-veteran team representing each branch of the military—cleaned, reset, and repaired headstones to restore pride and dignity to the graves of the fallen and their families.

During the project the corps members learned valuable preservation masonry skills, helped tackle much needed maintenance and rehabilitation at the park, learned valuable preservation trade skills, and were also able to give back to fellow veterans from nearly a century ago.



## About HOPE Crew

Empowering a new generation of preservationists through Hands-On Preservation Experience, HOPE Crew trains young adults and veterans to perform preservation work for historic structures within the National Park Service (NPS) system and our communities. In just four years, HOPE Crews have logged 120,000 hours in over 150 projects, helping to support \$18 million in historic preservation work, as well as engaging 3,000 volunteers and 700 youth and veterans. Projects like these provide job skills and education for the next generation of stewards of America's most important historic sites while helping to address the deferred maintenance backlog of the NPS.



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The park really appreciates this partnership opportunity, and we were able to complete some work that we would not have been able to accomplish without the program. We are excited to be a part of a program that helped train future stewards in preservation skills. After all, NPS will be the direct benefactors of this future labor force.

**Christopher T. Ziegler,**  
Chief of Cultural and Natural  
Resources Management for  
Little Bighorn Battlefield  
National Monument

National Trust for Historic  
Preservation, David Weible;  
“Military Veterans Tackle HOPE  
Crew Project at Custer National  
Cemetery” August 25, 2014  
[savingplaces.org/stories](http://savingplaces.org/stories)

*All photos by Audrey Hall*



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Historic Preservation®**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. Visit us at [SavingPlaces.org](http://SavingPlaces.org).

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