

Hall of Legends, Legacies, and Leaders

Inductee #24

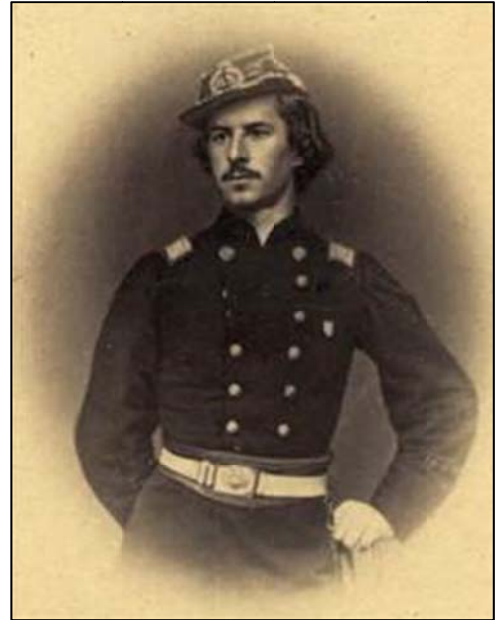
Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth

Colonel, 11th New York Volunteers

New York, New York

Born: April 11, 1837

Died: May 24, 1861



Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth was a law clerk, originally from upstate New York, who had become a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. Asked to command a regiment of soldiers recruited from the volunteer fire companies of New York City, Ellsworth created the first Fire Zouaves, modeled after French colonial troops in Algeria. He outfitted his men in gaudy Zouave-style uniforms, and modeled their drill and training on the original Zouaves.

Col. Ellsworth was the first conspicuous casualty of the Civil War. He was killed in Alexandria, VA, on the day after Virginia's secession from the Union was ratified, while removing a large Confederate flag from atop a hotel.