

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

more than a library...it's an experience

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PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY HOSTS AUTHORS KATHY ROTH-DOUQUET AND FRANK SCHAEFFER

Roth-Douquet and Schaeffer, to Discuss- AWOL: The Unexcused Absence of America's Upper Classes from Military Service - and How It Hurts Our Country

Chicago, IL, (September 12, 2006) – The Pritzker Military Library (www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org) today announced it will host Tonight at the Pritzker Military Library with Kathy Roth-Douquet and Frank Schaeffer, Thursday, September 14, 2006. The event will include a complimentary wine and cheese reception beginning at 5:00 pm. Roth-Douquet and Schaeffer's presentation and live web cast begins promptly at 6:00 pm followed by a Q&A session and book signing.

Military service was once taken for granted as a natural part of good citizenship, and Americans of all classes served during wartime. Not anymore. As Kathy Roth-Douquet and Frank Schaeffer assert in this groundbreaking work, there is a glaring disconnect between the "all volunteer military" and the rest of us. And as that gap between the cultural "elite" and military rank-and-file widens, our country faces a dangerous lack of understanding between those in power and those who defend our way of life.

Publisher's Weekly recently proclaimed, "In this impassioned, convincing manifesto, Schaeffer (*Keeping Faith*) and Roth-Douquet, a former Clinton White House and Department of Defense staffer, call for class integration of the military. Their arguments are personal: Roth-Douquet is a military wife and Schaeffer's son is a Marine, and the authors fall within the demographic they critique. Alternately narrating, they relate their experiences with the military and detail the liabilities of the present all-volunteer "corporate" force: the hindered policy-making ability of a civilian leadership without significant ties to the military, the weakening of the armed forces themselves, and "the sense of lost community and the threat to democracy that results when a society accepts a situation that is inherently unfair." While Schaeffer proposes a lottery draft and Roth-Douquet suggests the military "convince" people to sign up, they both call for all young people to submit to some form of national civilian service. The authors make a clarion call in the face of increasingly controversial foreign policy and a military stretched thin."

The program will take place at the Pritzker Military Library, 610 N. Fairbanks Ct., 2nd Floor. The event is open to the public, however advance reservations are

suggested. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.org. For more information, visit: <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events/2006-09-14-kathydouquetfrankschaeffer.jsp>

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The Pritzker Military Library, a major library and cultural venue for military history and the representations of the Citizen Soldier in a democratic society, is located on Fairbanks Court at Ohio, and can be reached via the CTA's Red Line (Grand stop). Public parking is conveniently located at the corner of Fairbanks Court and Ohio. The library is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 312-587-0234 or visit:

www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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