

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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

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PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY KICKS OFF CIVIL WAR SATURDAY PROGRAM

James S. Robbins and Fred Chiaventone to Discuss Their Works

Chicago, IL, (March 26, 2007) –The Pritzker Military Library is proud to announce the first installment of **Civil War Saturday** for the 2007 season. On **Saturday, April 28, 2007**, the library welcomes authors James S. Robbins and Fred Chiaventone to discuss their contributions to military literature. The program will highlight Robbins' work, *Last in Their Class: Custer, Pickett and the Goats of West Point*, and Chiaventone's first novel, *A Road We Do Not Know: A Novel of Custer at Little Big Horn*. The program and live Webcast will begin at **9:30 a.m.** (Robbins) and **11:00 a.m.** (Chiaventone) and will commence with the opportunity for book signing. The program is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m.

Last in Their Class: Custer, Pickett and the Goats of West Point chronicles the Civil War trials and triumphs of West Point "goats" -- those officers who ranked last academically in their class when they graduated. By utilizing an impressive lineup of primary sources, Robbins sheds light on the determination and thought processes of these "goats" as they rose through the ranks and helped shape the American military experience. *Last in Their Class* is a selection of the Military Book Club, the History Book Club and the American Compass Book Club.

Author James S. Robbins holds a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Mass. He is currently a Professor of International Relations at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Robbins, a former Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, is a frequent commentator on national security issues for *National Review*, *the Wall Street Journal* and other publications.

The first work of historical fiction by Fred Chiaventone, *A Road We Do Not Know: A Novel of Custer at Little Big Horn*, tells the story of the Battle of Little Bighorn through the eyes of the soldiers themselves. The Battle of Little Bighorn, an annihilation of the 7th Cavalry of the U.S. Army by Lakota-Northern Cheyenne Indian forces, is one of the most controversial battles in American history. *A Road We Do Not Know* received the 1999 Ambassador William E. Colby Literary Award and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in literature for its depiction of the deadly confrontation.

Chiaventone, a retired cavalry officer and former Professor of International Security Affairs at the US Army's Command and General Staff College, is an

expert on military history. His award-winning novels, articles and screenplays have garnered him with wide recognition and literary acclaim. Chiaventone is nationally regarded as an expert on guerilla warfare, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping operations and broadcast media.

“We are extremely honored to host such respected writers,” said Ryan Yantis, Executive Director of the Pritzker Military Library. “Their works have taught us volumes about the history of warfare in our country. We believe our *Civil War Saturday to be* a wonderful opportunity for people to learn more about important parts of our history.”

The Pritzker Military Library’s *Civil War Saturday* programs provide a free venue for the public to gain insight into the latest works by some of the best military historians and authors. The event will also be available through a live Webcast via the Internet. Each program is later archived and available for download in the podcast format.

There is no charge for the presentation, however, advance reservations are recommended as seating is limited. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net. For more information, visit: pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events/calendar.jsp

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About the Pritzker Military Library

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 and gallery are open to the public Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pritzker Military Library was founded in 2003 by Colonel (IL) James N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Ret.) with a mission to acquire and maintain a collection of materials and develop appropriate programs to create a better understanding of the role of the Citizen Soldier in society. The Library has amassed a collection of more than 20,000 books and an extensive collection of audiovisuals, prints and antique military posters, in addition to a growing collection of personal papers. Author events, interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and panel discussions on military topics highlight the Library’s weekly schedule of free program offerings. Archived web casts and pod casts of over 120 public programs are available on the library website and through the online catalogue. Re-broadcasts of Library programs appear on WYCC Channel 20. Check local listings for schedule. The Gallery opened in October 2005 and features military themed art, poster and print exhibits and multi-media presentations throughout the year.

For more information, call 312-587-0234 or visit:
www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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