

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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

610 North Fairbanks Court, 2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: 312-587-0234
Fax: 312-587-7311
www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY WELCOMES AUTHOR HAMPTON SIDES

Best-selling author to discuss his epic Western, "Blood and Thunder"

Chicago, IL – For one of his most devoted fans, Kit Carson came to the rescue five minutes too late. Carson found the slain young woman, Ann White, kidnapped and then killed by Indians. Later, he discovered a pulp novel among her possessions – starring the heroic “Kit Carson: Prince of the Gold Hunters”.

"He imagined her reading it while enduring her miserable captivity," writes Hampton Sides. "In [the] story, Kit Carson finds the kidnapped girl and saves the day, fulfilling his vow to her distraught parents...But in this instance the real Kit Carson had failed to avert a disaster; he feared [the] fiction may have given Ann White a false hope."

Award-winning author and historian Hampton Sides will appear at the Pritzker Military Library to discuss and sign copies of *Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West* on Thursday, October 25, 2007. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m. A reception and book-signing for Library members will precede the event at 5:00 p.m.

In his extraordinary new book, Hampton Sides brings the conquest of the West to vivid life. At the center of the narrative stands the legendary Kit Carson – the trapper, scout, and soldier who embodied all of the contradictions and complexities of the American experience in the West. Brave and clever, beloved by his contemporaries, Carson was an illiterate mountain man who twice married Indian women, and understood and respected the tribes better than any other American alive – and yet was also a cold-blooded killer, who willingly followed orders tantamount to massacre. Carson's astonishing exploits made him a household name when they were turned into “blood-and-thunders”, the pulp novels from which Sides draws his title, but his name also became a bitter curse for the Navajo, who cannot forget his role in the travails of their ancestors.

Hampton Sides is the author of three books, including the international bestseller *Ghost Soldiers*, recipient of the 2002 PEN USA Award for non-fiction. He is also the editor-at-large of *Outside* magazine. His feature writing has twice been nominated for National Magazine Awards.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net.

For more information, visit www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events.

###

About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a state-of-the-art private research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 25,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 170 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly military affairs panel program, Front & Center with John Callaway. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the internet, and archived as part of the Library's collection. Library programs are typically broadcast on WYCC Channel 20, a PBS affiliate, and are also available in podcast format at iTunes and Yahoo!, among others. A complimentary wine and cheese reception for our Associate Members precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing by The Book Stall. To learn more, please visit our website at: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

The Pritzker Military Library is a short walk from the CTA Red Line (Grand). Public parking is conveniently located at the corner of Fairbanks and Ohio. The library and gallery are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact:

Mark Heiden

External Affairs Coordinator

Pritzker Military Library

Library: 312.587.0234

E-Mail: m.heiden@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net

Edward C. Tracy

Executive Producer

Direct: 312.251.3095

E-Mail: execproducer@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net