

A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS, DONORS, AND FRIENDS OF THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

Ed Tracy to Depart – With Thanks

With thanks for his many years of dedicated service, Ed Tracy has departed as President & CEO of the Pritzker Military Library. Kenneth Clarke, the Library's Vice President of Administration and Operations, will assume the duties of Interim President.

Ed came aboard to shape the original library at 610 North Fairbanks prior to its opening, doing much to establish its identity as an institution and build its professional staff. He held the same role with the new library at 104 South Michigan, which was completed earlier this year. He departs after the successful conclusion of the eighth annual Liberty Gala, which brought together nearly 500 sponsors, donors, and friends of the Library. Ed's ideas and leadership were integral to the success of the Gala, which enables the Library to offer new programs, collections, and exhibits for members and patrons to enjoy.

Thanks to the strong foundation that Ed helped to create, the Pritzker Military Library is poised to continue its remarkable growth. The number of visitors in 2011 is already more than double the total from 2010. The staff has grown substantially over the last year, with more services and resources for members, guests, and visitors – in person and online. New efforts to fulfill the mission, such as the Oral History Program, are underway. And a strong corps of volunteers donates more than a hundred hours every week in support of those efforts.

"As Founder of the Pritzker Military Library and Chair of its Board of Directors, I want to thank Ed Tracy for his many contributions," said Colonel (IL) J.N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired). "In 2002, I asked Ed to lead the creation of a library that would pay tribute to the courage and valor of our nation's Citizen Soldiers, past and present. When the rapid growth of that library required a new facility, I asked Ed to fulfill that role again, and those efforts came to fruition earlier this year with the opening of the new Pritzker Military Library."

"I am proud of the growth and accomplishments of the Pritzker Military Library over the last eight years, and I appreciate the opportunity to have been part of such an important mission – to honor the Citizen Soldiers who defend our freedom, and share their stories with people in Chicago and across the world," said Ed Tracy. "This library began with one family's collection of books, and it stands today as an entire city's tribute to the Citizen Soldier. I leave the staff, volunteers, members, and donors knowing they will continue that work in new and innovative ways, and I am excited to see what is ahead for the Pritzker Military Library."

"On behalf of the Library's Board and professional staff, I am deeply grateful for everything that Ed has done to carry out the Library's mission," said Colonel Pritzker. "I look forward to continuing those efforts in partnership with our service men and women, library members, sponsors, and donors."

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