

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY WELCOMES U.S. ARMY MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT BRUCE P. CRANDALL

CHICAGO, IL – He is the most recent living recipient of America's highest award for military valor. In a ceremony at the White House in 2007, more than 41 years after his incredible exploits as a pilot in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam, a legend in Army aviation received the Medal of Honor.

The Pritzker Military Library is proud to welcome Medal of Honor recipient Bruce P. Crandall for an interview with Ed Tracy on Tuesday, April 22nd. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. It will also be recorded for later broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20.

His call sign that day was "Ancient Serpent 6", but many simply called him "Old Snake". Maj. Crandall's mission was to airlift troops into Landing Zone X-Ray, a remote location in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. After his fifth delivery, the landing zone came under intense fire and subsequent air missions were called off. However, the troops already in the landing zone were isolated, running out of time and ammunition, with casualties mounting.

By rule, medevac pilots were not allowed into a landing zone until it had been clear of enemy fire for at least five minutes, but those five minutes would not come. Crandall and another volunteer, Capt. Ed "Too Tall" Freeman, who were not medevac pilots, decided to return. They flew back into the Ia Drang Valley, under relentless fire and extreme danger, to resupply the isolated battalion – making fourteen flights each, until more than 70 wounded soldiers had been airlifted to safety.

These events were chronicled in the book *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, by Joe Galloway and Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, both of whom were on the ground at that landing zone – one a journalist, the other the infantry battalion commander.

Crandall served a second tour of duty and retired in 1977 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Upon learning that he and Freeman were being considered for the Medal of Honor, Crandall asked that his name be withdrawn in order to enhance his wingman's chances. Freeman received the award in 2001, but the "Old Snake" was not forgotten: he received the Medal of Honor on February 26, 2007.

Now in its fifth year, *Medal of Honor with Ed Tracy* has featured more than twenty interviews with our nation's greatest military heroes and their riveting stories of courage under fire. The 2008 season includes an upcoming appearance by Medal recipient Thomas G. Kelley, which will also mark the 200th program at the Pritzker Military Library.

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

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

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a private, non-partisan research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 27,000 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 190 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *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 recorded for broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes. A complimentary reception for Associate Members with wine and light refreshments precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing at author events by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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