

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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

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PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY WELCOMES IWO JIMA VETERAN AND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS

CHICAGO, IL – Five foot six was too short for the Marines in the fall of 1942, and barely tall enough a few months later; on the island of Iwo Jima, with the American forces taking heavy casualties and unable to advance beyond the beach, five foot six was a towering height.

The Pritzker Military Library is proud to welcome Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams for a special interview with Ed Tracy on Thursday, January 24, 2008. This program is free and open to the public, with a question-and-answer session to follow the interview. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., and a reception for Library members will precede the event at 5:00 p.m. This event will be recorded for broadcast on WYCC Channel 20.

Like all of the *Medal of Honor* series, the story of "Woody" Williams is not one of planned, calculated bravery. His company had been decimated, with all six flamethrower men lost in two days of intense fighting in the volcanic ash of Iwo Jima. But when Williams saw the American flag rise over Mount Suribachi, he seized the moment. The twenty-one year old Acting Sergeant strapped on a flamethrower and weaved through enemy fire to destroy a machine-gun pillbox. Williams spent the next four hours racing from enemy position to position, wreaking havoc, stopping only to grab new flamethrowers as each ran out of fuel. At last, the enemy line was broken and the Marines were able to advance.

By the end of one of the bloodiest battles in American history, 262 of the 279 Marines in Williams' company had been killed or seriously wounded. After leaving active duty, Williams became a lay minister in his church and a chaplain for his fellow Medal recipients. Today, he is Chaplain Emeritus of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

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. Ten new interviews are planned for 2008, leading up to the 2009 Medal of Honor Convention in Chicago.

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

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

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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 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 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 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 taped for broadcast on WYCC Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available in podcast format on the Library website and at *iTunes*, and archived as part of the Library's collection. A complimentary wine and cheese reception for Associate Members precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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