

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
pritzkermilitarylibrary.org

Contact:
Mark Heiden
External Relations Coordinator
312-587-0234
mheiden@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net

“MEDAL OF HONOR WITH ED TRACY” RETURNS WITH JACK H. JACOBS, U.S. ARMY, VIETNAM

CHICAGO, IL – Fresh out of college and facing a stack of bills, Jack Jacobs requested assignment with an airborne division, with an eye towards the extra pay he would earn for hazardous duty. When the Army assigned him to be an adviser instead, Jacobs developed an incredible knack for finding hazardous situations anyway.

The Pritzker Military Library is proud to welcome Jack H. Jacobs for an interview with Ed Tracy on Wednesday, October 15th. This event is free and open to the public. Copies of Jacobs' brand-new memoir, *If Not Now, When? Duty and Sacrifice in America's Time of Need*, will be available for purchase and signing. 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.

In 1966, Jack Jacobs finished school at Rutgers and, with plans to attend law school in the future, needed a steady paycheck to support his wife and young daughter. Two years later, 1st Lt. Jacobs was an adviser to a South Vietnamese infantry battalion in the Mekong Delta. They were searching for a group of Vietcong when the tables were suddenly, violently turned; in a devastating firestorm, the battalion's commander was badly wounded, and their defenses were thrown into chaos. Although badly hurt as well and barely able to see, Jacobs took command and withdrew the unit to safety. He returned to the scene of the attack several times, as intense fire continued around him, to rescue the wounded and perform first aid. That day, he saved the lives of thirteen soldiers and another adviser, and stopped only when he was no longer capable of moving; the extremity of his wounds was such that he would never regain his senses of taste or smell.

Jacobs received the Medal of Honor in 1969. After finishing graduate school, he returned to Vietnam for another tour of duty, during which he walked away unscathed from a helicopter crash. Over the course of more than twenty years of service, Jacobs also earned three Bronze Stars and two Silver Stars. Today, he is an analyst for NBC/MSNBC News, and makes regular trips to report from Iraq. The title of his new memoir, *If Not Now, When?*, comes from a line of Jewish philosophy that ran through his mind on that fateful day in 1968.

Now in its fifth year, *Medal of Honor with Ed Tracy* has featured more than 25 interviews with recipients of America's highest award for valor in combat. The fall season at the Pritzker Military Library will also include interviews with Medal recipients in November and December, leading up to the 2009 Medal of Honor Convention in Chicago next September.

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

Also on display: *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty*, an exhibition of portraits by acclaimed photographer Nick Del Calzo, opens October 9 and continues through January 30, 2009. Admission is free Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a non-partisan, non-profit research institution located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. Admission is free and open to the public, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and also for scheduled evening events.

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 a collection of books and films on subjects covering the full spectrum of American military history, along with vintage posters, photographs, medals, uniforms, and other artifacts from private donors and the collection of the Library's founder, COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.).

Since opening in October 2003, the Pritzker Military Library has produced over 200 programs including events with award-winning authors, interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and *Front & Center with John Callaway*, the Library's Emmy-nominated flagship program on public affairs. All programs are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, webcast live and archived on the Internet, and recorded for later broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes.

To learn more, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

Contact:

Mark Heiden
External Relations Coordinator
Pritzker Military Library
Library: 312.587.0234
E-Mail: mheiden@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net

Ryan Yantis
Executive Director
Pritzker Military Library
Library: 312.587.0234
E-Mail: execdirector@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net