

# PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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

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## PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY WELCOMES MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT WALTER D. EHLERS

**CHICAGO, IL** – Leadership came naturally to the young Kansas native, newly promoted to Staff Sergeant on the eve of the landing at Normandy. He had, after all, a perfect model: his older brother Roland, who would be landing with the second wave, right behind him.

The 2007 season at the Pritzker Military Library comes to a fitting conclusion with Medal of Honor recipient Walter D. Ehlers, who will sit down for a special interview with Ed Tracy on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. 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 taped for broadcast on WYCC Channel 20.

With his brother about to land a few hundred yards away, Walter Ehlers led his unit through the beach and eight miles inland, where they destroyed several machine-gun nests and severely weakened the German defenses over the next day. Even after being wounded, Ehlers managed to provide cover for the entire company to withdrawal and carry his wounded rifleman to safety. Despite his wounds, Ehlers refused to be evacuated, and left the makeshift hospital to resume command of his unit. He would learn in the months that followed that his actions had earned him the Medal of Honor, and that his brother Roland never made it off the beach on D-Day.

It is a common refrain among Medal of Honor recipients: they speak about the award not in terms of themselves, but about their fellow soldiers, the ones who did not survive. In Walter Ehlers' case, his own admiration resides with his brother, Roland, who died on the beach. "He was always kind of looking out for me," Ehlers said. "He was *my* hero."

Ehlers retired after 29 years working for the Veterans' Administration and 8 more on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans. He returned to Normandy in 2002, and was recently interviewed for *The War*, a documentary by Ken Burns.

Now in its fourth 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 series will continue with monthly interviews in 2008.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email [events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net](mailto:events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net).

For more information, please visit [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events](http://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 at iTunes and Yahoo!, 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. To learn more, please visit: [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org).

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