

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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

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TWO DAYS AFTER THE INAUGURATION, PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY HOSTS A LOOK BACK AT PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

CHICAGO, IL – Over the idyllic days and nights they shared as children, the prep schools and pursuits of leisure, he gave no sign that he would, one day, betray them. Like them, he was born to a vast, inexhaustible fortune and a family name that traced back to the Mayflower. He was one of them: privileged beyond ordinary men, the aristocracy of New York. But after he became President, they realized that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had become a traitor in their midst.

On Thursday, January 22nd, the Pritzker Military Library will begin its 2009 season of free, public programs with H. W. Brands and his acclaimed new book, *Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt*. This event 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.

Traitor to His Class examines three eras of Roosevelt's life: the privileged child of the upper crust, the economic reformer of the New Deal, and the resolute leader of World War II. In the early days, everything seemed to go right for the charismatic Roosevelt, who climbed the political ladder as if following a secret map to the Presidency. At 25, he dropped out of law school and sought election to the New York State Assembly; from there, he served for seven years as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, including World War I, and was nominated for Vice President before he turned 40.

But H. W. Brands finds a turning point in the illness that paralyzed the 39 year-old Roosevelt from the waist down, and brought a temporary halt to his political career. During rehabilitation in rural Georgia, he met poverty-stricken farmers whose experiences were a world away from the life of privilege he'd known. After returning to New York, Roosevelt continued the course he had charted, but he was a changed man. The problems of those Georgia farmers would form the core of the New Deal; the grueling rehabilitation would steel him for the challenges he faced as President. In Brands' recounting, Roosevelt's agenda faces crucial setbacks from Congress, the courts, and his own overambition, but he revels in being the enemy of the privileged few to which he belonged.

H. W. Brands is a professor of history and government at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of twenty-two books, including *Andrew Jackson, Lone Star Nation*, and *The Age of Gold*, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for biography for *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*.

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, 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.

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