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Pritzker Military Museum & Library Announces 2018 Literature Award Recipient

Dennis Showalter wins \$100,000 prize for lifetime achievement in military writing

CHICAGO, June 26, 2018— Military historian and author Dennis Showalter is the 12th recipient of the **Pritzker Military Museum & Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing**.

The Pritzker Literature Award—which includes a gold medallion, citation, and \$100,000 honorarium—recognizes and honors the contributions of a living author for a body of work dedicated to enriching the understanding of military history and affairs. Museum & Library Founder & Chair Jennifer N. Pritzker, a retired colonel in the Illinois National Guard, will formally present Showalter with the award at the organization's annual Liberty Gala on November 3 at the Hilton Chicago, where he will be joined by past recipients.

"It's a great honor to accept the 2018 Pritzker Literature Award. For the historical profession it is a combination of an Oscar and a Pulitzer and I think it's a good deal more fun than either," said Showalter. "No one who wins this award does it alone. We stand on the shoulders of the men and women of our profession, our colleagues, and above all the students...The importance of teaching history at military academies and advanced institutions is that the tendency of these institutions is to go towards engineering, technical subjects, and to be focused on specific strategic problems. Military history itself is as vital to the military education institutions as oxygen."

Dennis Showalter is an accomplished military historian and respected professor. He is the author of more than 16 major publications, including *Tannenberg: Clash of Empires*, *Patton and Rommel: Men of War in the 20th Century*, *Armor and Blood: Kursk, 1943*, *Frederick the Great: A Military History*, *The Wars of German Unification*, and *Instrument of War: The German Army 1914-18*. His latest book, coming in September, is *The German Failure in Belgium, August 1914*, with Joseph P. Robinson and Janet A. Robinson. He has gained recognition for his research demonstrating the interrelationship between the military and civil society.

"Dennis Showalter was selected by Colonel Pritzker from a group of three superbly qualified and eminent military historians that were picked by an advisory committee of past award winners and members of the PMML board," said Chair of the Selection Committee, John Rowe. "The committee's recommendations and Colonel Pritzker's selection were driven by Mr. Showalter's long and brilliant record of writing, especially about World Wars I and II. Members of the committee are especially motivated by innovative intellectual contributions to the field. Colonel Pritzker is equally motivated by genuine public service and by the accessibility of the writer's work to a wider public audience. Speaking for myself, I have enjoyed



and been informed by Showalter's work and am delighted that the list of deserving candidates for the award continues to grow as we work together."

Now in its twelfth year, the Pritzker Literature award was first presented to historian James McPherson in 2007. Past recipients – several of whom served as members of the award's 2018 screening committee – are Allan Millett, Gerhard Weinberg, Rick Atkinson, Carlo D'Este, Sir Max Hastings, Tim O'Brien, Antony Beevor, David Hackett Fischer, Hew Strachan and Peter Paret.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Showalter is Professor Emeritus at Colorado College, and a former President, Vice President, and Trustee of the Society for Military History. He has served as Editor or Editor in Chief for a variety of military history journals and book series, including *Oxford Bibliographies: Military History*.

A recipient of the Samuel Eliot Morrison Achievement Award from the Society for Military History and the American Historical Association Paul Birdsall Prize, Showalter is a distinguished scholar who has elevated military history as an academic discipline and as a useful tool for scholars and soldiers alike.

The Pritzker Literature Award is sponsored by the Pritzker Military Foundation. To learn more about the award or the selection process, or to watch the 2008 Literature Award recipient, Allan Millett, announce Dennis Showalter as this year's winner, visit pritzkermilitary.org.

ABOUT THE PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

The Pritzker Military Museum & Library is open to the public and features an extensive collection of books, artifacts, and rotating exhibits covering many eras and branches of the military. From its founding in 2003, it is a center where citizens and soldiers come together to learn about military history and the role of the military in a democracy. The Museum & Library is a non-partisan, non-government information center supported by its members and sponsors.

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