11-10-2008

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Recommended Citation
Wright, Lori, "NH Authors Share WWII Stories At UNH Nov. 18" (2008). UNH Today. 584.
https://scholars.unh.edu/news/584
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DURHAM, N.H. - They landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. They were shot down over Holland, Germany, Italy and China. They survived more than three years as prisoners of the Japanese. They helped liberate the concentration camps. They lost friends and loved ones in the greatest cataclysm in world history.

Meg Heckman and Mike Pride interviewed 50 members of the World War II generation for a series in the Concord Monitor. Now they have collected the oral histories of veterans and civilians in their new book, "We Went to War."

 Heckman and Pride will speak about the book and the war at UNH Nov. 18, 2008, at 5 p.m. in the Memorial Union Building, Theatre II.

During their presentation, the authors will share stories in the words of the people who lived them. They will discuss why it is important to collect the stories of ordinary people who experienced great historical events. And they will describe how the Internet has allowed them to expand on the way people tell - and listen to - stories.

After the talk, Heckman and Pride will take questions from the audience and sell and sign copies of "We Went to War."

"What a wonderful, moving collection of memories and stories -- the basic DNA of the greatest cataclysm in history. This is the war undistracted, unmediated by the sentimental. This is the real stuff," says Ken Burns, filmmaker, "The War."

Heckman of Concord is a New Hampshire native. A reporter for the Concord Monitor, she has been named New Hampshire Writer of the Year and New England Community Reporter of the Year. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire and has completed fellowships with the Poynter Institute for Media Studies and the New York Times Foundation. She teaches writing and alpine skiing.

Pride of Concord retired this year after a quarter century as editor of the Concord Monitor. A former Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, he served nine years on the Pulitzer Prize board. Pride is co-author of two war histories, "My Brave Boys" and "Too Dead to Die," and co-editor of "The New Hampshire Century." Two of his three sons are UNH graduates.

The program is sponsored by the UNH Journalism Program.