

“Andrew Carroll has given America a priceless treasure.”

— Tom Brokaw



Andrew Carroll/The Legacy Project

MEDIA GUIDE

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- PRESS RELEASE -
Clermont County Public Library

326 Broadway Street • Batavia, OH 45103

**Bestselling Author to Visit the New Richmond Branch Library
as Part of a National Campaign to Preserve Wartime Letters**

Batavia, OH – Critically acclaimed and bestselling author Andrew Carroll will visit the New Richmond Branch Library Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 7:00 pm. to discuss his travels around the U.S. and throughout the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan, to seek out and preserve extraordinary wartime letters and e-mails.

Carroll is the editor of the New York Times bestsellers *Letters of a Nation*, *Behind the Lines*, and *War Letters*, which was made into a 2001 PBS documentary. His most recent books are *GRACE UNDER FIRE: Letters of Faith in Times of War* and *OPERATION HOMECOMING: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families*. *OPERATION HOMECOMING* was also the basis of a 2007 PBS film.

"American troops have participated in some of the world's most historic moments, and their letters capture these events like nothing else," says Carroll. "The letters and e-mails by our men and women in uniform record not only what they saw, but what it felt like to be in the front row of history."

Carroll launched the Legacy Project, an all-volunteer initiative dedicated to preserving wartime correspondence, after a fire destroyed most of his family letters. After speaking with neighbors, relatives, and family friends about what they were doing to save their own correspondence, he was shocked to discover that many people—particularly veterans—were throwing their letters away. "Dear Abby" helped Carroll launch the Legacy Project in 1998, and since that time Carroll has received more than 80,000 never-before-seen letters and e-mails from every conflict in American history.

Carroll's appearance is the climax of the library's veteran's program titled *Remember Our Heroes*, and Carroll is encouraging local veterans (or the loved ones of veterans) to bring photocopies of their own family war correspondence to the library. The event also includes recognition of local veterans and an impressive display of veteran uniforms. The Military uniforms from around the county encompass every branch of service and will represent conflicts from WWI through Desert Storm.

For more information contact the library, 513-553-0570 or visit www.clermontlibrary.org. For information on Project Legacy and Andrew Carroll, visit www.warletters.com.

The Clermont County Public Library strives to provide innovative access to information and services that stimulate the diverse educational, informational, and recreational needs and interests of the community. Further, the library seeks to be an integral part of the community in cooperation with other community organizations.

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Andrew (Andy) Carroll Biography

Andrew Carroll, 38, is the editor of several bestselling books, including *Letters of a Nation*, *Behind the Lines*, and *War Letters*, which was made into a 2001 PBS documentary. He is also the editor of *Operation Homecoming: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front, in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families*, based on the National Endowment for the Arts national initiative of the same name. "Operation Homecoming," the documentary, began appearing on PBS in April 2007.

Carroll's most recent book is *Grace Under Fire: Letters of Faith in Times of War*, published by Doubleday and WaterBrook Press.

Carroll is the founder and director of the Legacy Project, a national, all-volunteer initiative that works to honor and remember U.S. troops and veterans by preserving their wartime correspondence. To date, the Legacy Project has received more than 80,000 never-before-seen letters and e-mails from every military conflict in American history.

Carroll is also the co-founder, with the late Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky, of the American Poetry & Literacy Project, which distributes free poetry books to the public in hospitals, schools, jury waiting rooms, train stations, hotels, airports, supermarkets, libraries, and similar venues. Since 1993, the APL Project has handed out more than 1,000,000 free poetry books to people from all walks of life.

In 2001, Carroll revived the "Armed Services Editions" (ASEs), which are pocket-sized books made especially for the military and handed out to U.S. troops abroad. More than 1,300 titles in all were first published during World War II, including mysteries, biographies, crime stories, adventure novels, and classic works of literature. The original ASEs were discontinued in 1947, and Carroll has been working with major publishers to reissue them. He has distributed a quarter of a million free ASEs to U.S. servicemen and women around the world, including thousands of books he personally handed out in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Carroll is considered one of the nation's foremost experts on wartime correspondence, and his efforts have been profiled on Oprah, NBC's *Nightly News*, FOX News, CNN, The History Channel (two different documentaries), C-Span, National Public Radio, CBS *Sunday Morning*, the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *Nightline* (which devoted a full broadcast to the Legacy Project). Carroll was also featured as a "Person of the Week" on ABC's *World News Tonight*. Carroll has also been a contributing editor and/or writer to many local and national publications, including *Guideposts*, *Time*, the *New Yorker*, and *National Geographic*.

A 1993 magna cum laude graduate of Columbia University, Carroll has received, among other accolades, the DAR's Medal of Honor; The Order of Saint Maurice, bestowed by the National Infantryman's Association; and The Free Spirit Award, presented by the Freedom Forum. He lives in Washington, D.C.

FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Remember Our Heroes* – Veterans program with author Andrew Carroll

WHEN: Thursday, November 8, 2007, 7:00 pm

WHERE: New Richmond Branch Library
103 River Valley Blvd., New Richmond, OH 45157
513-553-0570

ADMISSION: Free

FEATURES: Collection of authentic military uniforms on display. The Friends of the Library (FOL) will also be selling copies of Mr. Carroll's book that may be sent to troops overseas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the New Richmond Branch Library, (513) 553-0570 or visit www.clermontlibrary.org

NOTE TO MEDIA: Andrew Carroll will be available for in-studio radio and television interviews on 11/8/07 and can participate in taped radio and/or print interviews via telephone before that date. To schedule an interview, contact Andrew (Andy) Carroll at (202) 338-1109 or warletterproject@aol.com