



For Immediate Release

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**“The Vicksburg Campaign, Grant’s Military Masterpiece”
Talk to be presented Saturday, February 13 at Avon Old Farms School
Presented by Ed Bearss, national scholar, author and
nominee for Congressional Gold Medal**

The Avon Old Farms School, in conjunction with the Avon Historical Society, is pleased to present Edwin Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, who will present “The Vicksburg Campaign, Grant’s Military Masterpiece” on Saturday, February 13 at 1:00pm in the Brown Auditorium, Avon Old Farms School, 500 Old Farms Road, Avon. This is the second visit Mr. Bearss has made to Avon in three years for the recent commemoration of the U. S. Civil War. The event is open to the public free of charge; there is no snow date.

Mr. Bearss will discuss, in his own popular engaging style, the campaign that occurred between March and July 1863 which was a series of maneuvers and battles directed against Vicksburg, Mississippi, a fortress city that dominated the last Confederate-controlled section of the Mississippi River. The Union Army of the Tennessee, under Maj. General Ulysses S. Grant, gained control of the river by capturing this stronghold by defeating Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton’s forces stationed there.

“We are very pleased to have such a distinguished historian visit Avon Old Farms. Mr. Bearss’ talk will be informative and entertaining, and we welcome the entire community to join us in this collaborative program with the Avon Historical Society,” says Arthur Mehos, Chairman of the History Department at Avon Old Farms School.

A native of Montana, Mr. Bearss is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of WWII who saw service with the 3d Marine Raider Battalion in the invasion of Guadalcanal and the Russell Islands. He was severely wounded by Japanese machine gun fire and spent 26 months recovering before being

honorably discharged as a corporal in 1946. He financed his education on the G.I. Bill and became engrossed in the study of the Civil War and fascinated by the battlefields around the country. He raised his family in Vicksburg, MS where he was able to focus on much of the Civil War and the battlefields around the south. He is considered by many to be a pre-eminent Civil War scholar with over 30 books on the subject. He is a nominee for the Congressional Gold Medal for being, according to the Smithsonian Institution, “a living national treasure” with an encyclopedic of military history and the Civil War. He is 92-years old and still telling the story of his favorite time in history having been a foot soldier himself!

For more information on the location for the event, please visit, www.avonoldfarms.com and click on “Campus Tour” for a campus map.

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