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Civil War author, historian will open Authorspeak 2009

The series will begin Feb. 12 with bestselling writer James McPherson

Dallas - Best-selling author and leading historian of the Civil War James McPherson will be the first speaker in the Authorspeak series presented by the Dallas Public Library and the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. McPherson's appearance will be at noon Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Rosewood Crescent Hotel, 400 Crescent Court, Dallas.

McPherson is the author of *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*. He also wrote *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam*, a New York Times bestseller and many other books on Lincoln and the Civil War era. *Tried by War* offers a revelatory portrait of leadership during the greatest crisis the nation has ever endured. How Lincoln overcame feckless generals, fickle public opinion, and his own paralyzing fears is a story both suspenseful and inspiring.

The other authors in the series are:

March 10: Amy Chua author of *Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance - and Why They Fall*. A Yale law professor and daughter of immigrants, Chua's book examines a number of world-dominant powers and argues that tolerance and multiculturalism are indispensable features of global economic and military success. Chua offers an illuminating survey of the benefits of tolerance and pluralism, often as a tacit brief for maintaining America's generous immigration policies.

May 6: Reza Aslan, author of *How to Win a Cosmic War: Confronting Radical Islam*. Surveying the global scene, Aslan explores why religion is again becoming the supreme marker of identity in nearly all parts of the globe. In doing so, he launches a revolution in the way we understand and confront radical Islam. Aslan is a fellow at the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy and a Middle East Analyst for CBS News. Born in Iran, Aslan is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at University of California, Riverside.

Chua's and Aslan's appearances will be at the Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St., in the first floor auditorium. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the program and book signing at 6:30. For series and individual ticket information visit www.dfworld.org or call the World Affairs Council's reservations hotline at (214) 965-8412.

All authors' books will be available for purchase after the programs.

For more than half a century, the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth has been educating and enlightening metroplex residents on the crucial issues of international affairs and foreign policy. With a mission of connecting North Texas with the world, the nonprofit, nonpartisan Council presents more than 100 events each year and directs the City of Dallas' Protocol Office, the International Education Initiative and the International Visitor Program. For more information visit www.dfworld.org.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library and 25 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library, visit <http://dallaslibrary.org/home.htm>.

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