

AHEC Presents: Dr. Richard Sommers free, public lecture about Civil War Siege of Petersburg

AHEC Presents: Civil War Expert to lecture about lessons of the Siege of Petersburg, Oct 15 at 7:15 pm

From June 1864 to March 1865, the hard-bitten Civil War veterans of the Union and Confederate armies converged on the Virginia town of Petersburg. The resulting siege remains the longest in American history, inflicting nine brutal months of trench warfare on the soldiery of both sides. At 7:15 PM on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania will present the third lecture in the 47th Annual Perspectives in Military History Lecture Series. Dr. Richard Sommers will present the lecture entitled, "Richmond Redeemed: The Enduring Lessons in Leadership from the Siege of Petersburg," focusing on lessons in leadership at corps, army, theater, and national levels of command.

Union forces, commanded by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, assaulted the reeling Confederates under the indomitable General Robert E. Lee, but the unsuccessful attack forced the Federals into more than thirty miles of muddy trenches surrounding the city. The Siege at Petersburg ultimately involved more than 180,000 soldiers, thirty percent of which became casualties. Grant only realized victory after dwindling resources forced General Lee to abandon Petersburg and Richmond in April 1865, leading to his retreat and surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Dr. Sommers served the U.S. Army Military History Institute at the Carlisle Barracks for over twenty years as Chief Archivist and Military Historian and won the U.S. Army War College's Harold K. Johnson Professor of Military History in 2007 and 2008. He served in various positions in the archives and patron series at USAHEC. He teaches American history courses at the U.S. Army War College and has made numerous television appearances. Dr. Sommers has written over 100 books, articles, entries, and reviews, primarily on the Civil War. *Richmond Redeemed: The Enduring Lessons in Leadership from the Siege of Petersburg* is his most recent work and highlights the courageous leadership skills demonstrated by Generals Grant and Lee and their men during the harsh fighting of the Siege of Petersburg.

All USAHEC lectures are open to the public and FREE to attend. Doors to the Visitor and Education Center will open at 6:30 PM, and the lecture will begin at 7:15 PM. Parking is free, books for a signing

after the lecture will be for sale, and the Museum Store will be open. For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit: www.usahec.org <blockedhttp://www.usahec.org> or call 717-245-3972.

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