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Dallas Public Library and World Affairs Council to present Authorspeak *Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Atkinson will discuss his best-selling new book on Nov. 15*

Dallas, TX - Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist Rick Atkinson will kick off the 2007-2008 Authorspeak series Nov. 15 at the Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St. The Library has partnered with the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth to bring a unique focus to this annual event. The other speakers in the series will be former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and bestselling author Ted Fishman.

“About the same time that World Affairs Council President Jim Falk was reading a Harris survey that American adults admit to knowing very little about overseas politics, I was reading a poll that said one in four Americans didn’t read a book last year,” said Director of Libraries Laurie Evans. “So when we compared notes, we decided a partnership that would get people plugged into international affairs and reading books was vitally needed.”

Authorspeak programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the O’Hara Exhibit Hall, located on the 7th Floor. Tickets are \$20 per speaker or \$50 for the series for World Affairs Council and Friends of the Library members. Non-member tickets are \$30 per speaker or \$80 for the series. For tickets, go to www.dfworld.org and click on Events Calendar. Authorspeak is sponsored by KTVT-CBS 11, TXA 21 and WRR Classical 101.1 FM.

“The Council is delighted to partner with the Dallas Public Library to bring global issues to the forefront,” said World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth President Jim Falk. “These celebrated authors will offer fascinating accounts of history, politics, business and more, and will further our goal of connecting North Texas with the world.”

Atkinson, who won the Pulitzer Prize for *An Army at Dawn*, will discuss his new book, *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944*, currently number seven on The New York Times Bestseller List. The book is the second volume of his epic World War II trilogy.

The other speakers in the series are:

Feb. 28, 2008: Willie L. Brown, Jr., author of *Basic Brown: My Life and Our Times*. The long-time California state assemblyman and first African-American mayor of San Francisco will discuss his experiences and views on the world. His highly anticipated book is due out in February 2008.

March 6, 2008: Ted Fishman, author of *China, Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World*. The veteran journalist and former commodities trader paints a vivid picture of the megatrends radiating from China with his best-selling book. This program will be presented in cooperation with the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

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 on the Council, please visit www.dfwworld.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, go to: <http://dallaslibrary.org/home.htm>.

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