



Speakers and Artists in Residence
Leon Bass and Rick Atkinson
“American Soldiers and the Liberation of Europe in WWII”
Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010; 6 P.M. reception, 6:30 P.M. event
University of Memphis, University Center Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by MRJ-Brotherhood and the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities

Our distinguished featured guests bring a wide array of experiences, talent, and knowledge to the table. We hope you enjoy these experts in their respective fields.

This event will form a double commemoration, focusing on the American soldiers who liberated Europe and defeated Hitler in World War II and the 20th anniversary of Marcus W. Orr’s death.

Leon Bass, a WWII veteran, will discuss what it meant to fight a war against racism on two fronts: against the Nazi racial state and Jim Crow segregation.



The keynote speaker will be Pulitzer Prize winning author Rick Atkinson who will put into a broader perspective the role of American soldiers in the liberation of Europe based on his *Liberation Trilogy* series.

Marcus W. Orr came of age as a soldier in WWII, having a role in the liberation of Dachau and returning to the United States as a paraplegic. He overcame this challenge to become one of the foremost professors at the University of Memphis.