



PRESS RELEASE

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Texas State Historian to Present at UT Tyler Longview University Center

The University of Texas at Tyler Longview University Center will host a lecture featuring Texas State Historian, Dr. Bill O'Neal at 6:30 pm Thursday, March 26.

"Texas During World War II" will examine the remarkable contributions made by Texans to the American war effort during the Second World War. Almost 830,000 Texans, including 12,000 women, donned uniforms, and more than 23,000 Texas fighting men died for their country. Texans such as Lt. Audie Murphy, Commander Sam Dealey, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Admiral Chester Nimitz led American platoons, ships, armies and navies across the globe. Almost 1.5 million soldiers, sailors, and fliers trained at scores of Texas bases. Texas oil fueled the Allied war effort, and Texas shipyards and defense plants provided a flood of war machines and munitions.

"Bill is an exciting and dynamic speaker and we are pleased that he will be able to join us again this year," said Dr. Van Patterson, director of the UT Tyler Longview University Center. "Bill's father was a veteran of World War II and during his career as a history instructor he collected 100s of interviews with veterans. These experiences bring a unique and heartfelt perspective to Dr. O'Neal's presentation."

O'Neal currently is serving his second two-year term as State Historian of Texas. He taught history for four decades at Panola College, where a new dormitory was named "Bill O'Neal Hall" in August 2013. That same month his alma mater, Texas A&M University at Commerce, awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree.

Bill's most recent book is *Texas Gunslingers*. He is president of the West Texas Historical Association and past president of the East Texas Historical Association. In 2012 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Wild West History Association, and in 2007 he was named *True West Magazine's* Best Living Nonfiction Writer.

O'Neal will be on hand to greet the public in the downstairs lobby of Garland Hall located at 3201 N. Eastman Rd in Longview, Texas. Admission is free, and the lecture will begin at 6:30 pm.



Photo: Bill O'Neal, Texas State Historian, to present "Texas During World War II," at the UT Tyler Longview University Center on March 26.

