|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NEWS**  | ***from the Austin***Civil War Round Table, Inc. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release** | **Contact: David White** |
|  | Phone Number: (512) 497-4832 Email: hdwhite1978@att.net |

**Miller Wins 25th Austin Civil War Round Table’s Prize for his Book on the Vicksburg Campaign**

**(Austin, Texas) –** Donald L. Miller, the John Henry McCracken Emeritus Professor of History at Lafayette College, has won the twenty-fifth annual Daniel M. & Marilyn W. Laney Book Prize awarded by the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc. The winning work is *Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign That Broke the Confederacy*, published by Simon and Schuster.

The book is Miller’s first book venture into Civil War history. Three of his previous ten award-winning books, most of them best sellers, focus on World War II, among them *Masters of the Air,* which is being made into a ten-part dramatic series by Tom Hanks and Stephen Spielberg for Apple productions.  *Vicksburg* examines Ulysses Grant’s year-long campaign to take the city and the entire Mississippi Valley, arguably the decisive campaign of the Civil War*.* Grant’s success in the Vicksburg Campaign split the Confederacy in two, along the line of the Mississippi River, and led to his appointment as general-in-chief of all Union armies.

Miller’s book is a war history, not a strictly military history, a deeply researched examination of the social, economic, and political implications of military conflict—and a book about civilians as well as soldiers. In the Mississippi Valley campaign, Grant freed over 100,000 slaves and put nearly 26,000 of them in Union blue, as soldiers of the republic. “In this carefully research book, written with sizzling and persuasive prose, Miller has found the way to write both military and emancipation history in one profound package,” writes Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David W. Blight.

The *Wall Street Journal* called *Vicksburg,* “An epic story. Books like Vicksburg are exactly what Thomas Hardy had in mind when he wrote that ‘war makes rattling good history*.’”* Historian and Pulitzer Prize winner James McPherson declared it, “The fullest and best history of the Vicksburg campaign.”Past winner of the Laney Prize, Professor Elizabeth Varon wrote: “At the heart of his story is U.S. Grant, who emerges here as a master of maneuver and improvisation, and a hero made human and real. This is military history at its best.” Prize winning historian John Berry called it “a magnificent book, certainly one the very best ever written about the Civil War. It makes the reader truly understand not only the battle of Vicksburg, not only the Civil War, but war itself.”

The book previously won the Civil War Round Table of New York’s prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award.

The Laney Prize, which includes a stipend, will be presented to Miller at the October 15, 2020 meeting of the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc. The prize is awarded yearly for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military or political history of the Civil War.

Established by the membership of the Austin Civil War Round Table, the Prize honors the Laneys for their splendid efforts on behalf of the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc. and especially, for their many efforts to protect the endangered battlefields of the Civil War.

Among the previous winners of the Laney Prize are William C. Davis for *The Cause Lost*, Gary Gallagher for *The Confederate War*, Richard McMurry for *Atlanta: 1864*, Gordon C. Rhea for *Cold Harbor*, Jeffry D. Wert for *The Sword of Lincoln*, A. Wilson Greene for *Civil War Petersburg*, Craig L. Symonds for *Lincoln and His Admirals*, Donald S. Frazier for *Fire in the Cane Fields*, Edwin Bearss and J. Parker Hills for *Receding Tide*, Elizabeth Varon for *Appomattox,* and S.C. Gwynne for *Rebel Yell*.

For more information, contact the President of the Austin Civil War Round Table, Inc., David White, at the number listed in the heading.

--30--