



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Making history personal

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Cherel Henderson, Director
865-215-8823 | 865-335-0888
cherel@eastTNhistory.org
www.eastTNhistory.org

October 14, 2013

***The Longest Rescue: The Life and Legacy of Vietnam POW
William A. Robinson***

PROGRAM: “*The Longest Rescue: The Life and Legacy of Vietnam POW William A. Robinson,*” a presentation by Captain William A. Robinson

DATE: **Sunday, October 27, 2013**
2:15 p.m. Ceremonial Raising of POW/MIA flag conducted by Rolling Thunder Tennessee Chapter 3
2:30 p.m. Presentation by William A. Robinson

LOCATION: East Tennessee History Center
601 South Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

ADMISSION: FREE



(Knoxville, TN) Captain William A. Robinson (USAF Ret.), the longest-held enlisted POW of the Vietnam War, will be the guest speaker at the East Tennessee Historical Society on Sunday, October 27, at 2:30 p.m. While serving as a crew chief aboard a U.S. Air Force Rescue helicopter, Airman First Class Robinson was shot down and captured in the Tinh Province, North Vietnam, September 20, 1965. After a short stint at the infamous “Hanoi Hilton,” Robinson endured 2,703 days in multiple Vietnamese prison camps, including Briarpatch and various compounds at Cu Loc, during which he faced daily privations and was subjected to the full range of North Vietnam’s torture program. No enlisted man in American military history has been held as a prisoner of war longer than Robinson. He is one of only twenty-three enlisted men ever to earn the Air Cross, the Air Force’s highest military honor.

A native of North Carolina, Robinson now lives in Madisonville, Tennessee. His story is captured in a book, *The Longest Rescue: The Life and Legacy of Vietnam POW William A. Robinson*, by Glenn Robins, professor of history at Georgia Southwestern State University. The book chronicles the journey of a man who has fought painful and difficult battles, both personally and on behalf of his country, and corrects some of the myths and stereotypes about American Vietnam-era prisoners of war, as well as examining the difficult transition they faced upon returning home. A book signing will follow the program, with copies of the book available for purchase.

The East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association is a cosponsor for the lecture.

At 2:15 p.m., Rolling Thunder will conduct a ceremonial raising of the POW/MIA flag at the East Tennessee History Center. The program will begin at 2:30 with the short “POW MIA Remembrance Ceremony,” followed by the lecture. All events are free and open to the public. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

End Release