

## **THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 4, 2010

#### **NIMITZ FOUNDATION HOSTS BOOK SIGNING FOR *THE FLOWERS OF EDO* NOVEL TELLS THE STORY OF ONE MAN'S STRUGGLE TO SAVE HIS FAMILY, COUNTRY AND HERITAGE**

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation will host a book signing with author Michael Dana Kennedy for his debut novel, *The Flowers of Edo*, in the West Wing Exhibit at the George H.W. Bush Gallery on Thursday, September 2 at 2 PM.

Attendees will hear from Kennedy on what inspired him to write the highly praised novel that includes a special twist that has the reader wondering, "what if?"

Set in Japan during the final months of World War II, the novel tells the story of a fourth-generation Japanese-American soldier, Kenji Kobayashi, who volunteers to serve in the war on the American side.

With his language skills and Tokyo Imperial University education, Kobayashi quickly becomes a valuable intelligence officer sent into the heart of the Japanese Imperial Defense Force to collect data for an alternative plan to ending the war.

This first book in a proposed trilogy vividly reminds readers of the many larger-than-life personalities that participated in and eventually decided the outcome of the war, while introducing Kobayashi, a young hero determined to save his family, country and heritage.

The novel's author, Kennedy, is a Boston native. After graduating from Harvard University with a dual major in history and political science, he attended Tufts University School of Medicine for two years before withdrawing to pursue a career in clinical research. In the late '80s he returned to academia when he entered M.I.T., with a focus on computer science. Kennedy founded two medical technology companies, both of which he sold.

He then turned his attention to his life-long interest in history and began researching and writing *The Flowers of Edo*. Research for the book led him to live in Japan for six months. He spoke before members of Japan's Ministry of Defense at their headquarters in Ichigaya, Tokyo, where he was presented with an official daishō sword set for his findings.

The National Museum of the Pacific War, a Texas Historical Commission property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, is located in Fredericksburg, hometown of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater in World War II.

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