



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 12, 2008

**B.K. Smith Lecture in History Presents,
“Surrender in History: The Other Side of Victory”**

WHAT: B.K. Smith Lecture in History presents, “Surrender in History: The Other Side of Victory.”

WHO: Dr. John A. Lynn, Professor of History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 26

WHERE: Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon
on the University of St. Thomas campus
Parking at the Moran Center Parking Facility
3807 Graustark \$2

BACKGROUND:

Why should Americans, so obsessed with victory, concern themselves with surrender? In today’s military environment, should defeated foes refuse to acquiesce in their defeat, insurgency and terrorism become deadly alternatives. So to study surrender is to study an essential aspect of victory.

Historically, different countries and cultures evolved very different attitudes toward surrender. In the West, ours grew out of medieval concepts of chivalry, in which the individual could maintain his honor in surrender. This involved not only the act of putting down one’s weapons, but also the reasonable treatment of prisoners and procedures by which prisoners could eventually return to home and family. Even in the war on terror, such matters are still of importance.

Dr. Lynn’s paper explores the character of surrender as it evolved during the formative early modern period, 1500-1800, when most of the modern principles of international law emerged. During that epoch, surrender became linked with concepts of honor and principles of moral conduct which continue to be valid, and which are worth our attention and our adherence.

The family and friends of the late Benjamin Kopper Smith established the B.K. Smith Lecture in 1957. The series has brought a series of distinguished scholars to the UST campus to lecture and hold

informal discussions with students and faculty. B.K. Smith, a welding superintendent for the Pennsylvania Railroad, came to Texas in 1920 and founded the Big Three Welding and Equipment Company, which opened a Houston office in 1925. His contributions to Houston were many and he remained active until his death in 1948, a year after UST was founded.

COST: Free and open to the public

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Dr. Irving Kelter at 713-525-3192.