

# Perspectives in Military History

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Lecture Series

## “Lincoln’s Gamble”

**Mr. Todd Brewster**

Author, Journalist, and Film Producer

On January 16, 1863, spending the hard-earned political capital earned on the bloody fields around Sharpsburg just months earlier, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, turning the American Civil War towards a conflict based on the concept of human freedom. The proclamation was not a foregone conclusion, however, nor was it written as a result of the Battle of Antietam. Rather, it was the product of six months of struggle within Lincoln’s government; the “most tumultuous of his presidency.” In his lecture, based on his recently published book, *Lincoln’s Gamble*, Mr. Todd Brewster will explore the six months prior to the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation, studying Lincoln’s conflict with his generals, cabinet, and even his own depression. He will take on the myths of Lincoln’s belief in inequality and the triumph of freedom over slavery, and ask exactly how Lincoln overcame adversity to free the slaves held in the Confederacy.

Todd Brewster is the Director of the National Constitution Center’s “The Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution.” He was a Senior Editor of *LIFE* magazine from 1988 to 1992, and was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 2000. From 2004-2006, he served as a Knight Fellow at Yale Law School and as the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Government at Wesleyan University, moving on to take over the Don E. Ackerman Director of Oral History at the U.S. Military Academy from 2008 to 2013. In 2013, Brewster turned to film production as the Executive Producer of the film, *Into Harm’s Way*. His latest book, *Lincoln’s Gamble*, and was published by Scribner in September 2014.

DATE: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the talk begins at 7:15 p.m.

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes in lecture times and locations, please check the USAHEC website: [www.USAHEC.org](http://www.USAHEC.org) or call the Information Desk at 717-245-3972.