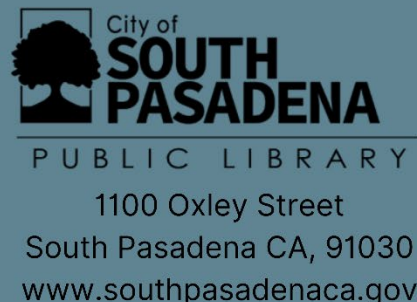




PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2024

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Author Sue Hodson Discusses *I Promise You I'll Be Home*

South Pasadena (Calif.) – Author/editor Sara S. “Sue” Hodson will present an illustrated lecture for adults on *I Promise You I'll Be Home: Korean War Letters of a U.S. Marine* on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the South Pasadena Public Library Community Room located at 1115 El Centro Street, South Pasadena. The highlighted book is written by Al Martinez and edited by Sue Hodson. The presentation is supported by a grant from the Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, Inc.

Al Martinez (1929-2015) served in the Marine reserves while a student at San Francisco State College, where he wrote for and edited the campus newspaper, the *Golden Gater*. He was called to active duty in Korea for a year beginning in April 1951, first on the front lines and then in his regiment’s Public Information office as a combat correspondent and newsletter writer and editor. After returning home, he began his career as a journalist in Oakland. Enticed to join the *Los Angeles Times* in 1971, he became a featured columnist for the paper in 1984. For the next 23 years, his columns appeared regularly, earning him many awards, including three shared Pulitzer Prizes

and a National Headliner Award for the best column in the U.S. As a 21-year-old Marine sent to the front lines of the Korean War, Al Martinez dispatched letters almost daily to his young bride, Joanne. In battle, he experienced the worst that war can bring, and then he served as a combat correspondent and as writer and editor of his regimental newsletter, the *Ridgerunner*. After the war, he entered a career in journalism, becoming a featured columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* where he would earn three shared Pulitzer Prizes. Written from the unique perspective of an obviously gifted, professional writer at the beginning of his career, his letters home capture his experiences eloquently and with depth of understanding as they express the dangers, hardships, fear, friendships, and even humor of life at the front. His vivid, often humorous pen-and-ink drawings portray scenes from the front lines. (McFarland & Company).

Sara S. "Sue" Hodson is the retired curator of literary manuscripts for The Huntington Library. A Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of California Archivists, she continues to write and speak often on literary and archival subjects. Her previous books are *Jack London, Photographer* (University of Georgia Press) and *Jack London: One Hundred Years a Writer* (Huntington Library), both cowritten with Jeanne Campbell Reesman. She acquired Al Martinez' papers for The Huntington and curated a major exhibition about him titled "Al Martinez: Bard of L.A."

The South Pasadena Public Library is located at 1100 Oxley Street in South Pasadena. Visit the Library website at www.southpasadenaca.gov/library for information about services and programs. The Library is open Monday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m.

to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Upon request made no later than four (4) business days before the event, the City will provide a reasonable accommodation for a qualified person with a disability to have equal access to the event. Please call (626) 403-7431 or fill out the City's request form available at www.southpasadenaca.gov/ADA and email the form to Human Resources at HR@southpasadenaca.gov.

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