

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Minnesota Author and Filmmaker Team Up to Produce Documentary**

*“As Promised - Return to Fénétrange” will follow a Minnesota WWII veteran as he returns to France to fulfill a promise made 67 years ago.*

**Minneapolis, MN** – As a result of coincidence or perhaps providence, Lino Lakes, Minnesota author Lee Burtman and Fridley, Minnesota independent filmmaker Troy Antoine LaFaye met for the first time. Burtman was attending a World War II living history event at the Dakota County Fairgrounds to promote her book, *“Fighting For Delphine”*, based on the memoirs of 86-year-old WWII veteran, Ken Krueger of Blaine, Minnesota. LaFaye, who is also a WWII Re-enactor, was introducing the attending authors and veterans as they each took turns discussing their roles as part of America’s Greatest Generation.

Lee Burtman’s involvement in helping to tell Ken’s story began in 2006. After listening to Ken give a tear-filled recollection of his victory in war, but defeat in love at a church event, she was so moved that she approached him about relaying his experiences in a book so that they might be preserved and shared with future generations. Three years later, she had published the book, her first, and she and Ken had begun promoting it at veterans’ events around the state of Minnesota. In May 2010, Ken’s story would take on a new direction - intrigued by the bitter-sweet love story, LaFaye approached Burtman and Krueger about the possibility of making a documentary based on Ken’s experiences. United by their shared goal of preserving and honoring the memories of the men and women who lived, died and sacrificed during the Second World War, Burtman and LaFaye began to collaborate on a new venture – a video documentary titled: *“As Promised – Return to Fénétrange.”*

Based on a sixty-seven year old promise Ken Krueger made to a young French girl named Marguerite, *“As Promised – Return to Fénétrange,”* will document Ken’s journey back to France, as he retraces his footsteps as a motor messenger in WWII from the beaches of Normandy to the small town of Fénétrange where he met, fell in love with and became engaged to Marguerite. Army bureaucracy, Marguerite’s adversarial father and the end of the war would all conspire to prevent the wedding from ever taking place. Ken received his orders to go home, but not before he promised his fiancée he would return as soon as he could. He would never fulfill that promise – until now.

Shooting in high definition video, the project will shoot for 3 weeks in France, beginning in late May of 2011. The production will employ an engaging blend of interviews with Ken, his family and the family of Marguerite, narration, contemporary and vintage still and motion picture photography, reenactments, and period music to evoke a sense of that era and to explore timeless themes of love, loss, valor, honor, and redemption. The estimated completion date of the project is mid-2012.

As with many independent films, LaFaye and Burtman will be raising funds to produce the documentary themselves. The projected cost of the project will be \$50,000 to cover travel and lodging in France and other production-related costs. The producers hope to raise approximately \$15,000 by May so that Ken will be able to attend the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day commemorations in France and to add a final chapter to his memoir, which will begin with the words... I came back—*as promised*.

Individual donations and business sponsorships are now being accepted via the project website. A fundraising event is also planned for April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 with details to be released soon.

For additional information, a promotional video and more on the *“As Promised – Return to Fénétrange”* website ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.aspromised.net" http://www.aspromised.net](http://www.aspromised.net)).

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