



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Douglas Dillon Prize Awarded to Ralph Pezzullo

JACKSON, Miss. — The American Academy of Diplomacy has awarded the 2006 Douglas Dillon Award to the book *Plunging into Haiti: Clinton, Artside, and the Defeat of Diplomacy* (University Press of Mississippi) by Ralph Pezzullo. The Douglas Dillon award is presented annually for a book of distinction on the practice of American diplomacy.

Plunging Into Haiti is an inside account of the backroom negotiations that entangled the United States in the sufferings of its island neighbor. Through his father, Lawrence Pezzullo, who served as the U.S. special envoy to Haiti, Ralph Pezzullo gained access to important players on all sides. He tells the story of talented, committed men and women from the United States, France, Argentina, and Haiti who dedicated themselves to creating an outcome that would benefit Haiti and the rest of the world.

In 1995, the American Academy of Diplomacy began to award an annual prize for a book of distinction on the practice of American diplomacy. The Academy hopes that this prize will stimulate further academic research on the way American diplomacy is exercised and will also deepen public understanding of the critical need for excellence in our diplomacy.

After learning of his award, Pezzullo was delighted and hopeful that the book would “help people to better understand the challenges and importance of diplomacy in our increasingly complex and independent world.” Pezzullo went on to say, “As the son of a diplomat and someone who has long admired the dedication, perseverance and courage of those who strive to resolve crises through negotiation and compromise this award means a lot to me.”

Ralph Pezzullo is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, novelist, poet, and journalist. He is the author of several books including *Jawbreaker* and *At the Fall of Somoza* and has written articles for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, the *Washington Post*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Connoisseur*, *GQ*, *USA Weekend*, the *Miami Herald*, and other publications.

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