**NEWS RELEASE**



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**An Inspiring Story of Triumph Over Isolation
HERMIT
A Must-Read Adventure Story By Author O. Gene Bicknell**

From author and community advocate O. Gene Bicknell comes ***HERMIT***, an inspiring story of triumph over isolation. ***HERMIT*** is the fictional tale of U.S. Army Ranger Sgt. Jackson Eagle, U.S. Special Forces Ranger and his struggle with the punishing aspects of his isolation, and his fight to overcome it.

Sgt. Eagle has returned to his hometown of Arapaho Glades, Idaho, after escaping an Iraqi prison, where he was beaten and brutalized. After a long, painful road to recovery, Jackson leaves the military behind in exchange for civilian life. One night, after his sister encourages him to celebrate with friends at the local bar, the military hero finds her in the parking lot being assaulted by a local sheriff’s deputy. Fueled by anger and blinded by rage, his military training kicks in nearly beating the officer to death. Leaving the man for dead, Jackson flees, escaping the modern world in exchange for a life off the grid in the nearby forest.

Relying only on his wits, Jackson survives alone in the wilderness until one day when a plane goes down, and he finds himself no longer the forest’s sole inhabitant. Soon, he befriends the survivors — a woman and her son — and once again becomes a hero in their eyes. But will the relationships they form be strong enough to finally heal a man who’d rather be alone than to feel anything at all?

A man of many talents, author O. Gene Bicknell is well-known for his success in building NPC International, which became the world’s largest Pizza Hut franchisee. Bicknell also raised considerable funds for dozens of charitable causes, taught master-level business courses and lectured at major universities throughout the United States and abroad. Gene founded the O. Gene Bicknell Center for Entrepreneurship, authored three books, and produced several movies. He also owns an entertainment business in Branson, Mo., and resides in Englewood, Florida, near Tampa.

Author proceeds from HERMIT are being donated to the Bicknell Charitable Foundation, which provides funding and support to a variety of children’s charities such as St. Jude’s Hospital, Shriners Hospitals and many others. A Christian faith-based organization, the foundation provides funding to provide pregnancy support, housing, and youth counseling services.

Title: ***HERMIT***

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Genre: Action/Adventure Fiction

Copies available at bookstores and online at www.amazon.com.

For more information and to request a preview copy or an interview, contact mgore@ascendbooks.com or call 913-948-7635.

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