

# Press Kit

## Synopsis

*In the Absence of Honor* weaves together the lives of a bewildered, downsized widower; a wealthy, aging megalomaniac; two corrupt members of the local Ojibwe tribal council, and a Department of Interior agent in their battle over a valuable piece of property in Northern Minnesota. Money, power and greed are weaving a new story of corruption as casinos take a grip over the economic lifeblood of the reservation.



Alarm escalates to horror for Jake Lorenz as a visit to his Minnesota family cabin in search of renewal rapidly reveals destruction and death. A talented engineer who has lost both his wife and his job, Jake suddenly finds himself embroiled in a struggle for land, wealth and power as casino corruption and greed takes its grip over the economic lifeblood of the reservation.

While battling personal demons and deadly forces of man and nature, Jake's life becomes entwined with those of Ojibwe Indians—Big Lights Johnson and Morey Turnbull, a sullen, 300-pound outcast; Alex Minor, the largest private landowner on Arrowhead Peninsula; Sam Aguire and Chase Leonard, corrupt Tribal Council leaders; peninsula locals and Donna Lynch, Department of the Interior agent.

Circumstances guide Jake, Donna and Big Lights to a corrupt Department of Interior Secretary and an Indian Mafia money laundering operation. Donna Lynch, the Department of Interior Agent in charge of the investigation is caught in the middle. Jake's land becomes implicated in the process. Unexpected alliances and lives lived *In the Absence of Honor* bring consequences that reverberate from a small northern community, an Indian reservation and a casino of uncertain profitability to powerful forces in Washington, D.C. Intrigue, excitement and emotion fill this tale of conspiracy and intrigue.

Woven into the story are facts relating the land as an important ancestral Ojibwe village and a Hudson Bay Trading Company location giving the reader a perspective anchored in historical significance. These facts play a key role in a FBI investigation that leads to charges of murder, conspiracy, money laundering and fraud against local Indian leaders.

## Author Biography

Jim Proebstle has experienced northern Minnesota his entire life. He and his wife, Carole, now call it home for the warmer months. His love for the wilderness setting, fascination with Native American reservation life and continued corruption amid escalating casino profits fueled his imagination for *In the Absence of Honor*. Jim draws on his knowledge of the area and its history to weave a page-turning story with origins dating back 200 years and outcomes that could appear in tomorrow's newspaper.

Jim has his BA and MBA from Michigan State University where he was fortunate enough to also play on a National Championship Football Team in 1965 and earn athletic and academic honors.

After a corporate business career including IBM, Xerox and Bell&Howell, Jim formed Prodyne, Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in top-line revenue performance improvements through sales, management effectiveness and customer satisfaction initiatives.

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Currently, Jim and Carole reside in Deer Park, IL, which is close to their two children and five grandchildren.

### Fact Sheet

Born: Massillon, Ohio: 1944

High School: Central Catholic—Canton, Ohio

College: Michigan State University—BA 1966; MBA 1968: Played starting tight end for MSU's National Championship football team in 1965

MSU's Eli Broad School of Business Outstanding Alumni Award: 2001

Married to Carole Proebstle for 42 years: Children--Jeff and Jennifer—5 grandchildren

### Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 15, 2008

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## PROEBSTLE AUTHORS 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEL

*In The Absence of Honor Whisks Readers Through a Tale of Conspiracy, Fraud, Deception and Betrayal*

**Chicago, IL—Sept. 15—**Jim Proebstle, President of Prodyne, Inc.—a management consulting firm, has turned his talents to another creative project by penning his first novel, *In The Absence of Honor*, a story of conspiracy and intrigue set in northern Minnesota.

“My love for the wilderness setting, fascination with Native American reservation life and curiosity over casino corruption fueled my imagination for this story,” said Proebstle. “In this page-turning novel with origins dating back 200 years, there are outcomes that could appear in tomorrow’s newspaper. Unexpected alliances and lives lived *In the Absence of Honor* bring consequences that reverberate from a small northern community, an Indian reservation and a casino of uncertain profitability to powerful forces in Washington, DC,” he said.

Rave reviews for *In the Absence of Honor* are posted on the book’s website, [www.intheabsenceofhonor.com](http://www.intheabsenceofhonor.com). “Fascinating issues including distribution of wealth generated by Native American-owned casinos, corruption of local law enforcement and political figures, corruption of local tribal officials, the interactions among Federal bureaucracies, the local

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governments and the tribal communities all contribute to a great learning experience for the reader,” said one reviewer.

“This is a talented first novel that totally captures your imagination and leaves you wanting Jim's next novel in short order,” said another. “A great read—I was hooked from the first page,” and “one of the best and most memorable books that I have ever read,” said others.

Amazon.com readers gave the novel five stars calling it an “incredible book with a compelling story and one that is difficult to put down.” Another enjoyed Proebstle’s technique of mixing historical fact with fiction.

Proebstle says he worked on his novel two to three hours evenings or mornings, and it took him many hours, weeks and months of writing and rewriting to achieve the end result.

Proebstle earned a BA in business and an MBA in marketing from Michigan State University (MSU) and is a frequent presenter and program facilitator for a wide variety of sales, sales management and cross-functional management programs. He is also an Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient from MSU’s Eli Broad College of Business. In 1965, while playing for MSU on the school’s National Championship football team, Proebstle received academic and athletic honors.

Proebstle and his wife Carole live in Deer Park, IL, close to their two children and five grandchildren, and spend summers at Sandy Cove in northern Minnesota. He is currently working on a new novel, inspired by his uncle Curly and the devastating plane crash he piloted during WWII.

## Interview Questions

1. Are there real-life examples of tribal corruption that inspired the book?
2. What are the social ramifications of casinos, poverty and unemployment affecting the Native American culture on reservations?
3. What has been the Native American reaction to *In the Absence of Honor*?
4. How did you become so familiar with Minnesota’s North Woods setting?
5. What historical research did you use to build the story?
6. Did you find any useful techniques in getting started with actually writing the novel?
7. Do characters really take over during the writing process?
8. What were your biggest learning points in writing *In the Absence of Honor*?
9. What are you writing at present?
10. How are you staying in contact with readers interested in your work?

## Media Interviews (to date 9/16/08)

### Newspaper:

- Park Rapids, MN: Enterprise
- Walker, MN: The Pilot-Independent
- Grand Rapids, MN: Herald Review

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- Brainard, MN: The Brainard Dispatch
- Bemidji, MN: Bemidji Pioneer
- Grand Forks, MN: Grand Forks Herald
- Chicago, IL: Pioneer Press

### Radio:

- KAXE: Grand Rapids, MN
- MPR: MN
- WILS: Lansing, MI

### TV:

- Lakeland Public Television: MN

### Other Media:

- [www.intheabsenceofhonor.com](http://www.intheabsenceofhonor.com) website
- Midtown Athletic Club Membership Newsletter
- MSU Alumni Newsletter
- <http://mittenlit.wordpress.com> blog
- National Automatic Merchandising Association Press Release