



November 4, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Clifford Laube at (845) 486-7745

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
presents an author talk and book signing with
Renowned Presidential Historian
RICHARD NORTON SMITH author of
ON HIS OWN TERMS: A LIFE OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER
Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Henry A. Wallace Center at the
FDR Presidential Library and Home**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will present an author talk and book signing with renowned presidential historian **Richard Norton Smith** author of **ON HIS OWN TERMS: A LIFE OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER**. The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. Following the presentation, Smith will be available to sign copies of his book. This is a free, public event.

Fourteen years in the making, **ON HIS OWN TERMS: A LIFE OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER** is a magisterial biography of the original Rockefeller Republican drawing on thousands of newly available documents and over two hundred interviews, including Rockefeller's own unpublished reminiscences.

Grandson of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, Nelson coveted the White House from childhood. "When you think of what I had," he once remarked, "what else was there to aspire to?" Before he was thirty he had helped his father develop Rockefeller Center and his mother establish the Museum of Modern Art. At thirty-two he was Franklin Roosevelt's wartime coordinator for Latin America. As New York's four-term governor

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he set national standards in education, the environment, and urban policy. The charismatic face of liberal Republicanism, Rockefeller championed civil rights and health insurance for all. Three times he sought the presidency -- arguably in the wrong party. At the Republican National Convention in San Francisco in 1964, locked in an epic battle with Barry Goldwater, Rockefeller denounced extremist elements in the GOP, a moment that changed the party forever. But he could not wrest the nomination from the Arizona conservative, or from Richard Nixon four years later. In the end, he had to settle for two dispiriting years as vice president under Gerald Ford.

In *ON HIS OWN TERMS*, Richard Norton Smith re-creates Rockefeller's improbable rise to the governor's mansion, his politically disastrous divorce and remarriage, and his often surprising relationships with presidents and political leaders from FDR to Henry Kissinger. A frustrated architect turned master builder, an avid collector of art and an unabashed ladies' man, "Rocky" promoted fallout shelters and affordable housing with equal enthusiasm. From the deadly 1971 prison uprising at Attica and unceasing battles with New York City mayor John Lindsay to his son's unsolved disappearance (and the grisly theories it spawned), the punitive drug laws that bear his name, and the much-gossiped-about circumstances of his death, Nelson Rockefeller's was a life of astonishing color, range, and relevance. *ON HIS OWN TERMS*, a masterpiece of the biographer's art, vividly captures the soaring optimism, polarizing politics, and inner turmoil of this American Original.

Acclaimed presidential historian and FDR Library Trustee Douglas Brinkley said of *ON HIS OWN TERMS*, "This is one of the greatest cradle-to-grave biographies written in the past fifty years. It's never dull and always joyfully lucid. Highly recommended!"

Richard Norton Smith is the author of *THOMAS E. DEWEY AND HIS TIMES* (a finalist for the 1983 Pulitzer Prize); *AN UNCOMMON MAN: THE TRIUMPH OF HERBERT HOOVER*;

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THE HARVARD CENTURY: THE MAKING OF A UNIVERSITY TO A NATION; THE COLONEL: THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF ROBERT R. MCCORMICK, 1880-1955; and PATRIARCH: GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE NEW AMERICAN NATION. He has served as the director of presidential libraries commemorating Abraham Lincoln, Herbert Hoover, Dwight Eisenhower, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan. As C-SPAN's in-house historian, he appears frequently on that network. He has also been a regular contributor to the *PBS NewsHour*, and an ABC News presidential historian.

Copies of Smith's book will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the event.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

As generations of Americans that have no personal memory of the Roosevelt Era emerge, it is more critical than ever that the lives and legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt be preserved and presented to new generations. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum stands ready to serve as a visible and valuable resource for children and families, educators and students, and an international audience seeking to understand the past to make a better tomorrow. With a newly renovated building and new permanent museum exhibits the Library seeks to honor President Roosevelt's vision in dedicating his Library to the American people. The Roosevelt Library is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

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