

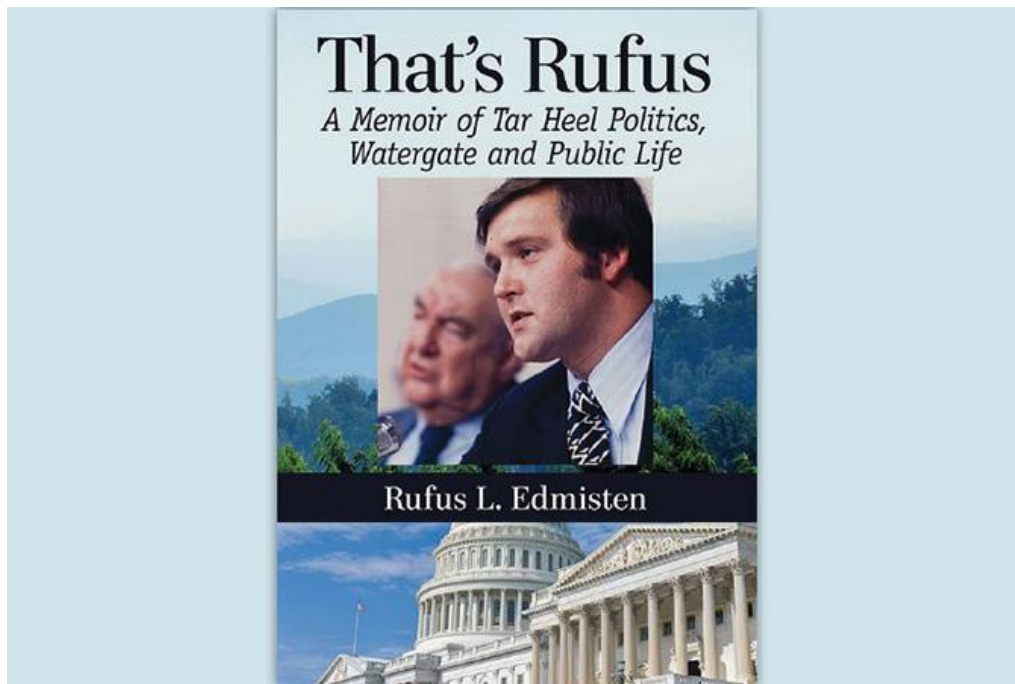
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Rufus Edmisten to Debut Memoir at NC Museum of History on May 30

Speaker: Rufus Edmisten, Former Deputy Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Watergate Committee, Former North Carolina attorney general from 1976-1984, Former Public Servant, Author



May 17, 2019 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — The North Carolina Museum of History will host [the debut of Rufus Edmisten’s memoir](#), aptly named “[That’s Rufus: A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate and Public Life](#)” on **Thursday, May 30** from 6- 9 p.m., including a reception to be held in the museum’s lobby. Admission is free, but the museum asks that [attendees register in advance](#) to hear Edmisten speak.

Possibly the most colorful politician in North Carolina’s last 50 years, public servant, and Boone native Rufus Edmisten tells his story in his own words in his memoir, “That’s Rufus.” The title is fittingly informal. He’s never been known to friend or foe or family as anything but “Rufus.” That reflects not just

the rarity of that first name in recent generations, but his mountain upbringing. To introduce himself to anyone as “Rufus Edmisten” would have displeased his strong, plain-spoken parents, Walter and Nell Edmisten.

Tall, burly, round faced, with twinkling eyes, an uncanny memory for names and faces, and a gift for storytelling, Rufus Edmisten was “launched” onto the world stage and into politics by a political rocket called Watergate, and fellow mountaineer Senator Samuel J Ervin, Jr. Just out of college, Edmisten went to Washington and began working during the day for Senator Ervin, who he’d long admired, while he attended George Washington Law School at night. When Senator Ervin, an unlikely political hero with a conservative record, championed integrity with his Watergate hearings, Edmisten was sitting behind him as the committee’s deputy chief counsel. To better serve the senator, Rufus stayed close during the proceedings. That, as it happened, also put him in front of the national TV cameras every day for weeks. Rufus served the subpoena to President Nixon—the first time a sitting president was served a subpoena by a committee of Congress.

Watergate ended, and Rufus came home to be North Carolina’s attorney general, winning his first full term in 1976, a second in 1980. In 1984, he was beaten by Republican Jim Martin for the governor’s office thanks to a fractured Democratic Party and the popular President Ronald Reagan. He was stunned by the setback, but came back to serve as North Carolina’s Secretary of State, possibly believing it would be his launch to a U.S. Senate seat. But then he was, he says, a victim of his own hubris, and he resigned the office under fire. Edmisten has published cookbooks (a campaign strategy) and he’s made thousands of speeches in every county in North Carolina over a political career that turned him to a legal career and forever, a career in the spotlight. Oh, yes, Rufus Edmisten has never been one for false modesty. And so he comes again to that light, launching a final campaign, perhaps, to share his stories with people across North Carolina. Proceeds from his book will go to his [Super Kids Foundation](#), which has helped hundreds of disadvantaged children all over North Carolina in the last 25 years.

IMAGE [Dropbox link](#), caption and credits

Image- *That’s Rufus* cover image

That’s Rufus: A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate and Public Life via McFarland Publishing

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#) or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About Smithsonian Affiliations

In association with the Smithsonian since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation. Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at www.affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the NC Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the NC Arts Council, State Preservation Office, and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-814-6800 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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