



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Presidential Partnerships; A Conference, Kicks Off with Dinner Event*

**WEST BRANCH, IOWA – Feb 22, 2017** – The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, with support from the Hoover Presidential Foundation, will host, *Presidential Partnerships; A Conference*, featuring former Hoover Presidential Library-Museum directors Richard Norton Smith and Timothy Walch, history professors Lisa Ossian and Ross Kennedy, and Hoover biographer George H. Nash on June 2 and 3.

The two-day conference brings together a variety of historians, each with a tie to Herbert Hoover, and explores Hoover's relationships with several other U.S. Presidents.

The first night features a dinner event with Richard Norton Smith. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, June 2 and includes dinner at the Brown Deer Golf Club in Coralville. The meal begins at 6:30 p.m., with a cash bar social at 6. Richard Norton Smith will speak following the meal. He served as the director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum from 1987 to 1993.

Smith is a nationally recognized authority on the American presidency and a familiar face to viewers of C-SPAN, as well as The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, where he appears regularly as part of the show's round table of historians. Born in Leominster, Massachusetts in 1953, Smith graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1975 with a degree in government. Following graduation he worked as a White House intern and as a freelance writer for The Washington Post. In 1977, Mr. Smith became a speech writer for Massachusetts Senator Edward Brooke. Two years later he went to work for Senator Bob Dole.

The dinner is open to the first 200 registrants. Tickets for the event are \$65 for members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation and \$75 for non-members. Secure registration is open online at [HooverPresidentialFoundation.org](http://HooverPresidentialFoundation.org). Guests attending the dinner will receive paid entry to the Saturday session.

Saturday's session includes a panel discussion in the Hoover Presidential Library's Figge Auditorium. The discussion will focus on the relationships Herbert Hoover had with several presidents. The panel consists of Walch, Nash, Ossian and Kennedy. Hoover Presidential Library-Museum director, Tom Schwartz, will moderate.

Walch will focus on Hoover's interactions with President Eisenhower, and Nash with President Coolidge. Ossian, a professor of history at Des Moines Area Community College, will discuss Hoover's relationship with President Truman. Ross Kennedy, a history professor from Illinois State University, will focus on Hoover and Woodrow Wilson.

The sessions begin shortly after the museum opens at 9 and will continue into the afternoon after a lunch break. Admission to the session is included with regular museum admission as seating permits.

#### **About the Foundation**

The Hoover Presidential Foundation is a private nonprofit organization for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. The Foundation fosters the collection, interpretation and preservation of historical resources relating to the life, ideas, values and times of Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States.

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