

Curt Smith Bio – Long

Curt Smith is a newspaper columnist, award-winning radio commentator, Upstate New York political analyst, and acclaimed author of *eighteen books, including his current work, Memories from the Microphone: A Century of Baseball Broadcasting*. Smith wrote more speeches than anyone else for George H. W. Bush during and after his 1989-93 Presidency. *The New York Times* terms Curt's work "the high point of Bush familial eloquence." Adds Chicago Cubs radio Voice Pat Hughes: "He is [also] simply one of the best baseball historians ever."

Since 2002, Smith has written a regular column for regular column for Upstate's *Messenger-Post* Newspapers. He has analyzed politics for numerous radio/TV outlets; appears on such syndicated shows as *Beyond the Beltway*; and contributes regularly to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) websites and publications. Smith is also a Senior Lecturer of English at the University of Rochester, teaching Public Speaking and Presidential Rhetoric from Franklin Roosevelt to Joe Biden.

The State University of New York at Geneseo alumnus began as a Gannett reporter, speechwriter for former Texas Governor John B. Connally, *The Saturday Evening Post* senior editor, then senior Cabinet speechwriter in the Reagan presidency. In 1989, he joined the Bush White House, writing the 41st president's "Just War" Persian Gulf address, Margaret Thatcher Medal of Freedom address, and speech aboard the USS *Arizona* memorial site on Pearl Harbor's 50th anniversary. Smith also wrote Bush's eulogy to Ronald Reagan at Washington's National Cathedral.

Leaving the White House, Smith headed the former president's 1993-97 speech staff. He has keynoted a conference at Bush's Texas A&M University Library, the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, and Great Fenway Park Writers Series—and addressed the annual SABR convention and hosted Smithsonian Institution, Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and XM Satellite Radio series. Smith co-wrote the highly rated ESPN TV 1994-95 series, *Voices of The Game*, based upon his 1992 updated book, the title now often shorthand for baseball radio/television. He also helped research ABC/ESPN's *SportsCentury*.

For a decade, Smith hosted the popular National Public Radio show *Perspectives* on Upstate New York outlet WXXI. Associated Press and the New York Broadcasting Association voted his commentary "the best in New York State." Among programs he has hosted on local or regional radio/TV were *Perfectly Clear*, *Talking Point*, *The Curt Smith Show*, and *Voices of The Game*—interviewing David Birney, Lynne Cheney, Bob Costas, Andrew Cuomo, Garth Fagan, David Maraniss, Jon Meacham, George Mitchell, Robert Merrill, Al Roker, Louis Rukeyser, and George Will.

Smith increasingly turned to books, his newest, *Memories from the Microphone: A Century of Baseball Broadcasting*, an official work of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. (All books are listed separately.) Beyond *Voices of The Game*, he has authored: *The Presidents and the Pastime*, *George H. W. Bush: Character at the Core*, *Mercy! A Celebration of Fenway Park's Centennial*, *A Talk in the Park*, *Pull Up a Chair: The Vin Scully Story*, *The Voice: Mel Allen's Untold Story*, *Voices of Summer*, *What Baseball Means to Me*, *Storied Stadiums*, *Our House*,

Windows on the White House, Of Mikes and Men, The Red Sox Fan's Little Book of Wisdom, The Storytellers, Long Time Gone, and America's Dizzy Dean.

His work has appeared in *The Memoir as Art, Greatest Presidential Speeches, and 32 Greatest TV/Film Presidential Portraits*, Cambridge University's *The Cambridge Companion to Baseball*, the National Museum of American Jewish History's *Changing Dreams—and the Baltimore Sun, Boston Globe, Newsweek, The New York Times, Sports Illustrated, and The Washington Post*. He has appeared on *ABC Nightline, BBC, CBS This Morning, CNN, ESPN, MLB, Fox News, MSNBC, History Channel, Mutual Radio, CSPAN Washington Journal, and Radio America.*

Smith has been named to the select Judson Welliver Society of former White House speechwriters. He is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame Ford C. Frick committee, choosing a yearly broadcast inductee, and the National Radio Hall of Fame steering committee. Smith joined the University of Rochester faculty in 1999. He lives with wife Sarah in Upstate New York.