



*“To promote an understanding of the life and times of President Woodrow Wilson, his impact on the world, his relevance today and for the future.”*

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## **Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Offers Virtual Presentation on “Preserving Presidential Papers in the Modern Era” as part of The Evarts W. Opie, Jr. Memorial Speaker Series**

STAUNTON, VA –The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library will host a virtual presentation by The Honorable Don W. Wilson, former Archivist of the United States, on “Preserving Presidential Papers in the Modern Era” as part of its “*Evarts W. Opie Jr. Memorial Speaker Series*” on Thursday January 14, at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Topics such as the Presidential Records Act, the emergence of new technologies, and the use of private email servers and private messaging apps will be discussed. The program will include time for questions from attendees. The event is a “pay what you will” event. All attendees must pre-register to receive the link to the presentation. Registration information is available at [www.woodrowwilson.org](http://www.woodrowwilson.org).

An expert in Presidential Libraries, Wilson was appointed the seventh Archivist of the United States by President Ronald Reagan in 1987. Wilson has significant experience in Presidential Libraries; he was the first Executive Director of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation, the Founding Director of the Gerald Ford Presidential Library, and was the Associate Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library. Additionally, Wilson served as the President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library from 2009-2015.

This series is named in honor of Lt. Colonel Evarts W. Opie, Jr., who served on the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library for many years and was President of the Board from 1993 to 1999. Opie was the long time president and publisher of Staunton newspaper, *The News Leader*. He served as president of the Virginia Press Association and chairman of Associated Press Newspapers. Additionally, Opie served in the Virginia National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after 27 years.

Opie was civic leader in the Staunton community. In addition to his work with the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, Opie held leadership roles with various nonprofit organizations, including: president of the Staunton Rotary Club; chairman of the board for the local Salvation Army; and president of the local YMCA. He was a charter board member of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia and was a lifelong member and vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton.

“We are pleased to offer this Inaugural program of the Evarts W. Opie Jr. Memorial Speaker Series” said Robin von Seldeneck, President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library. “Evarts believed



in civil conversation and I believe he would be pleased that his friend, Don Wilson was chosen to start this important series.”

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum is open for guests to tour the President’s Birthplace, the Woodrow Wilson Museum, and the Library and Archives. The Presidential Library proudly sponsors weekly online educational programming for individuals of all ages. The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library is located at 20 N. Coalter Street in Staunton Virginia. Hours vary due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and guests are encouraged to visit the website on the most up to date in formation on operating hours. For additional information, please call 540-885-0897 or visit [www.woodrowwilson.org](http://www.woodrowwilson.org).

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