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Witness to History: An insider's view of Georgia politics when Tom Murphy was at the center of power

ATLANTA – For Georgia, the final 25 years of the 20th Century were undoubtedly the most prosperous period in its history. Atlanta became a magnet for corporate headquarters and hosted the Olympic Games. Its suburban counties were consistently among the nation's fastest-growing. The investment in higher education was doubled at colleges and universities across the state.

Georgia elected four governors, three lieutenant governors and six U.S. Senators during that time. The one constant was the nation's longest-serving state House speaker, Thomas B. Murphy. Georgia's progress during Murphy's tenure is chronicled in the recently published book *Witness to History*, published by McGraw Hill Learning Solutions.

“An insider's look at Georgia politics during the period when it became a leader in the South, and the man who was at the center of it all,” *Witness to History* is authored by Steve Anthony, who worked with Murphy starting in 1977 and served as the speaker's chief of staff from 1981 to 1995.

In his first book, Anthony highlights “the events that shaped politics in Georgia, who was involved and how it happened.” *Witness to History* is filled with personal anecdotes never published before, insights into Murphy's leadership style and, as Anthony puts it, “how things *really* happened.”

Veteran journalist Dick Pettys, who covered the Murphy years for the Associated Press and now writes for the political website InsiderAdvantage.com, describes *Witness to History* as a “reveling memoir of what it was like working with one of the most complex figures to rise to power in modern Georgia. Even though Murphy survived two challenges for the gavel during his record-setting 28 years as speaker and was widely views as having firm control over the House, Steve takes us behind the scenes to show that wasn't entirely the case late in Murphy's career when he had to confront changing times. ... There was also a softer, compassionate side to Murphy. Steve gives us a look at that, too.”

A former executive director of the Democratic Party of Georgia, Anthony has worked in recent years as a lobbyist and political consultant and now teaches political science at Georgia State University.

Witness to History is available at \$19.95 at Barnes & Noble, through Amazon.com, and at the campus bookstores of Georgia State, the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and the University of West Georgia.

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