

*The John P. McGovern Forum for Ideas*

H O N O R S

# Henry Winkler

*with The John P. McGovern Award*



P R E S E N T E D   B Y  
Smithsonian Associates

*October 21, 2024*



Smithsonian Associates



---

# *Program*

## **Welcome**

Frederica R. Adelman

*Director, Smithsonian Associates*

## **Presentation**

of the John P. McGovern Award Medal to

**Henry Winkler**

Dr. Monique Chism

*Smithsonian Under Secretary for Education*

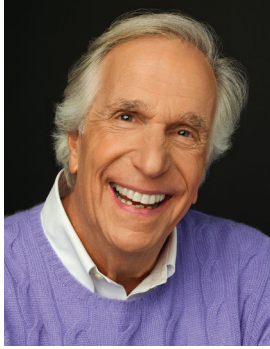
**Remarks by Henry Winkler**

**Discussion with the audience**

---

# Henry Winkler

---



For using his voice to amplify important discussions about dyslexia and other issues that touch American lives, Henry Winkler is the recipient of the John P. McGovern Award presented by Smithsonian Associates. After 50 years of success in Hollywood, he continues to be in demand as an actor, producer, and director. He co-starred as acting teacher Gene Cousineau in HBO's dark comedy "Barry," for which he won his first Primetime Emmy Award in 2018 for

Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy as well as two Television Critics Choice Awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series.

A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, in 1973 Winkler was cast in the iconic role of Arthur Fonzarelli, aka "The Fonz," in the TV series "Happy Days." During his 10 years on the popular sitcom, he won two Golden Globe Awards, was nominated three times for an Emmy Award and was also honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In recent years, he has appeared in several series, including "Medical Police," "Arrested Development," "Children's Hospital," "Royal Pains," "New Girl," and "Parks and Recreation." Winkler is also a *New York Times* best-selling author of many children's books, including the trilogy and the 17-book Hank Zipzer series that follows the adventures of a boy with dyslexia, inspired by his own struggle with learning challenges. His candid and moving autobiography, *Being Henry: The Fonz...and Beyond*, was published by Celadon Books in 2023 and has recently been released in paperback.

While Henry Winkler's many roles are notable, he is first and foremost a husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife Stacey make their home, which they share with two dogs, in Los Angeles. They are always delighted to spend time with their three children, Jed, Zoe and Max, and six grandchildren.

---

# *John P. McGovern, M.D.* —————



The late John Phillips McGovern, M.D. (1921–2007) was a celebrated physician, educator, author, medical historian, philosopher, philanthropist, and humanitarian. Dr. McGovern held degrees and awards from Duke University, Yale, and the George Washington University. He served in the military and was appointed chief resident at the Duke Children's Hospital. Fellowships took him to London, Paris, and Boston Children's Hospital (Harvard University). After receiving a Markle Scholarship in medical sciences at George Washington University, he taught pediatrics at the university's School of Medicine.

He was described as “truly one of the giants in American medicine,” in an accolade when the American Medical Association presented him with a Meritorious Service Special Award in 1988. His pioneering research in allergies and the work of the McGovern Allergy and Asthma Clinic he founded in Bellaire, Texas, have been expanded to include research on the influences of alcoholism and drug abuse on family life.

His international reputation in various fields is reflected in honorary degrees from 29 colleges and universities including Oxford University's Green College. French President François Mitterand awarded him the Ordre National du Mérite in 1988, the same year the King of Sweden presented him with the Royal Medallion of the Polar Star. More than 60 professorships, lectureships, scholarships, and facilities bear his name, reflecting the broad range of his interest in intellectual history and natural history, in addition to medicine and public health.

Dr. McGovern authored or co-authored 244 publications, including 22 books in medicine and the humanities, and served as the editor or editorial board member of more than 20 scientific journals. He advised numerous U.S. agencies and was honored by C. Everett Koop with a Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal for lifetime achievements, particularly for their work together on an initiative to combat drinking and driving. A philanthropist with two foundations, Dr. McGovern was generous to institutions in his native Washington, D.C., as well as in other cities in the United States and abroad.

---

---

# *The McGovern Endowment*

In 1998, the Smithsonian established the John P. McGovern Endowment, with proceeds supporting the John P. McGovern Award in Behavioral Sciences. Presented by Smithsonian Associates, the award recognizes individuals in the behavioral sciences and other professions whose work made outstanding contributions to further the understanding of family life in America.

In 2018, the board of the John P. McGovern Foundation expanded the endowment's scope to include a broader range of professionals in the sciences and humanities. The program was renamed the John P. McGovern Forum for Ideas, solidifying Dr. McGovern's desire to partner in the Smithsonian's pioneering efforts to bridge the sciences and humanities and open pathways to new knowledge.

Past recipients of McGovern medals and prizes include **Katie Couric**, journalist; **T. Berry Brazelton**, pediatrician; **Robert N. Butler**, gerontologist; **Howard Gardner**, psychologist; **Johnnetta Cole**, educator and anthropologist; **Mary Catherine Bateson**, anthropologist; **Amitai Etzioni**, sociologist; **Barbara Kingsolver**, novelist and essayist; **James P. Comer**, child psychiatrist and educator; **Joan Ganz Cooney**, educator, producer, and business executive; **Andrew Weil**, physician and author; **Eric Carle**, children's picture book creator and illustrator; **Alvin F. Poussaint**, child psychiatrist; **Marian Wright Edelman**, child and family advocate; **Judy Blume**, author and advocate of intellectual freedom; and **Heidi Murkoff**, author and child and family advocate.

---

---

# *Smithsonian Associates*

Smithsonian Associates—the largest museum-based education program in the world—produces vibrant educational and cultural programming. Entering its 60th year, Associates programs are inspired by the Smithsonian’s research, collections, and exhibitions. Each year nearly 1,000 online and in-person programs engage a growing community of lifelong learners across America—and beyond.

Smithsonian Associates hosts extraordinary conversations with notable figures whose expertise and opinions span the arts, the sciences, and the humanities.

Smithsonian Associates’ community of learners welcomes supporters at all levels. To learn about the benefits of membership and to explore the wide range of monthly programs, visit [smithsonianassociates.org](http://smithsonianassociates.org).



Smithsonian Associates

1100 Jefferson Drive, SW, Suite 3077

Washington, DC 20560

[smithsonianassociates.org](http://smithsonianassociates.org)

 @SmithsonianAssociates

 @SmithsonianAssociates

---



Smithsonian Associates

*smithsonianassociates.org*