



THE ATLANTA PRESS CLUB INC.

2025 HALL OF FAME

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SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

THE 2025 ATLANTA PRESS CLUB HALL OF FAME
VIP RECEPTION, DINNER AND CEREMONY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL BUCKHEAD
ATLANTA, GA

ATLANTAPRESSCLUB.ORG

ABOUT THE APC HALL OF FAME

Each year, the Atlanta Press Club recognizes top leaders within our industry. The Hall of Fame is an annual event that recognizes journalists for their lifetime achievements and careers, representing the highest standards of journalistic integrity and ethics. These individuals have made outstanding contributions to journalism in Georgia, across the country, and around the world – often courageously overcoming obstacles to pursue, uncover and share the truth.

[Click Here to View the 2024 Hall of Fame Program](#)
[Click Here to Watch the 2024 Hall of Fame Ceremony](#)

PAST INDUCTEES



2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Bill Nigut covered Georgia and national politics for WSB-TV for 20 years, traveling across the country to report on presidential primary elections, national conventions, debates and conducting one-on-one interviews with presidential candidates over five presidential election cycles from 1984 to 2000. He frequently reported from the White House and Capitol Hill as news took him to Washington, including covering the confirmation hearings of Justice Clarence Thomas, Newt Gingrich's election as speaker of the house, the Clinton impeachment trial and more. In addition, he covered 18 sessions of the Georgia General Assembly. Bill subsequently spent more than nine years as the executive producer and host of "Political Rewind," a daily political discussion program on Georgia Public Broadcasting, the state NPR network. In his final stop as a political journalist, Bill served as a host of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's political discussion program "Politically Georgia," which aired on Atlanta public radio station WABE. He was inducted into the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2021, and in 2019 was an inductee into the National Academy of Arts and Sciences Silver Circle for "outstanding contributions to the television community" in the Southeast. Bill retired on January 31, 2025, and is currently teaching a course on the history of Broadway musicals at Emory University's continuing education program.



Ernie Johnson Jr. is the iconic voice of TNT Sports, an eight-time Sports Emmy Award winner and long-time host of TNT's Inside the NBA studio show. With Ernie as host, Inside the NBA received five Sports Emmy Awards for Outstanding Studio Show – Daily. In addition to his more than 35 years hosting Inside the NBA, he hosts TNT Sports and CBS's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship studio coverage (since 2011) and has been an integral part of MLB on TBS game and studio coverage since 2007. He also co-hosts (alongside Charles Barkley) "The Steam Room", a weekly podcast covering sports news, pop culture, and entertainment. Ernie was inducted into the 2023 class of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Additionally, he was recognized as the 2021 "National Sportscaster of the Year" by the National Sports Media Association and previously received the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation "Award of Excellence." Ernie is also a best-selling author with "Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments that Make Life Extraordinary."



Jon Shirek was a revered Atlanta journalist who devoted more than 40 years to telling the stories of Georgia with clarity, compassion, and integrity. Jon was born in Fargo, North Dakota, and grew up there and in Melbourne Beach, Florida. Jon began his career while attending the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, working at The Independent Florida Alligator newspaper, WRUF-AM, and WTLV-TV in Jacksonville. After graduating in 1974, he began working full time at WTLV. In 1980, Jon moved to Atlanta and WXIA-TV 11Alive News, reporting for 43 years about people, events, and issues defining our times and affecting our future. His Emmy award-winning stories and sonorous voice earned him the newsroom nickname The Poet. He mentored many in the newsroom and was a steady presence during times of crisis and change. Jon retired from 11Alive in February 2024 and passed away on April 14, 2025. His passing marks the end of a remarkable chapter in Georgia journalism. His voice, character, and commitment to the truth leave a lasting imprint on the city he loved and the profession he served so faithfully.



Janis Ware and her father, the late **J. Lowell Ware** (1928–1991), are widely recognized for their transformative work in journalism and community development in Atlanta. J. Lowell Ware was a pioneering Black publisher and civil rights advocate who co-founded The Atlanta Inquirer and later established The Atlanta Voice in 1966. He used journalism as a tool for empowerment, founded multiple newspapers across the South, and co-created the SUMMECH Community Land Trust to revitalize underserved neighborhoods. Janis Ware continues this legacy as Publisher of The Atlanta Voice and Executive Director of SUMMECH Development Corporation. Under her leadership, the newspaper has evolved into a modern media platform, and SUMMECH has developed over 1,800 affordable housing units in Atlanta's Mechanicsville community. A respected civic leader, she holds several board positions and has earned numerous awards for her contributions to media and community development. Together, the Wares have championed Black voices and community progress across generations.



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Department of Journalism
Grady College of Journalism
and Mass Communication
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Georgia EMC

WHAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP PROVIDES:

RECOGNITION

Sponsorship allows us to publicly recognize excellence in the field of journalism at our annual Hall of Fame event, which honors journalists for their careers and lifetime achievements.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Through publications and programming, the APC helps to educate the public on important issues and the role journalists play in a democracy.

EDUCATION

APC hosts discussions throughout the year to help journalists improve their skills and accuracy. Topics include current legislation, First Amendment law, and tips and resources.

INTERNSHIPS

APC offers summer internships for journalism students by pairing them with many of Atlanta's top news organizations where they receive hands-on experience reporting.

ACCESS

Members and the public gain access to influential leaders from across the state and the country through our Newsmaker series and our networking mixers.



HALL OF FAME SPONSORSHIP

DIAMOND LEVEL / \$20,000

Recognition and benefits:

- Includes 10 tickets to Hall of Fame VIP Reception and Ceremony.
- Unique opportunity to support the cost of a 2026 Atlanta Press Club intern in honor of this year's inductees
- Recognized as Diamond Sponsor in pre-event news releases distributed to media organizations and reporters in the metro Atlanta area
- Recognized as Diamond Sponsor in pre-event emails distributed to more than 3,500 metro Atlanta business and community leaders
- Recognized as Diamond Sponsor on event page of Atlanta Press Club website
- Featured in Atlanta Press Club social media posts
- Two full-page ads in event program
- Logo featured in Hall of Fame event program
- Logo featured onscreen before and during Hall of Fame event
- Recognition by master of ceremonies
- Video of event will be available on our website and YouTube channel.

**TO SPONSOR OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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NOTE: THE PURPOSE OF HALL OF FAME SPONSORSHIPS IS TO SUPPORT THE NON-PROFIT MISSION AND WORK OF THE APC. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN A CONTRACT, YOUR SPONSORSHIP OF THE APC IS AN UNRESTRICTED GIFT. THE APC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FULFILLING BENEFITS FOR IN-PERSON EVENTS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF PUBLIC RESTRICTION DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. DECISIONS ABOUT SUCH EVENTS ARE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE APC AFTER CONSULTATION OF REGIONAL HEALTH GUIDELINES.

HALL OF FAME SPONSORSHIP

PLATINUM LEVEL / \$15,000

Recognition and benefits:

- Includes 8 tickets to Hall of Fame VIP Reception and Ceremony
- Recognized as Platinum Sponsor in pre-event news releases distributed to media organizations and reporters in the metro Atlanta area
- Recognized as Platinum Sponsor in pre-event emails distributed to more than 3,500 metro Atlanta business and community leaders
- Recognized as Platinum Sponsor on event page of Atlanta Press Club website
- Featured in Atlanta Press Club social media posts
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GOLD LEVEL / \$10,000

Recognition and benefits:

- Includes 6 tickets to Hall of Fame VIP Reception and Ceremony
- Recognized as Gold Sponsor in pre-event news releases distributed to media organizations and reporters in the metro Atlanta area
- Recognized as Gold Sponsor in pre-event emails distributed to more than 3,500 metro Atlanta business and community leaders
- Recognized as Gold Sponsor on event page of Atlanta Press Club website
- One full-page ad in event program
- Logo featured in Hall of Fame event program
- Logo featured onscreen before and during Hall of Fame event
- Recognition by master of ceremonies
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SILVER LEVEL / \$5,000

Recognition and benefits:

- Includes 4 tickets to Hall of Fame VIP Reception and Ceremony
- Recognized as Silver Sponsor in pre-event news releases distributed to media organizations and reporters in the metro Atlanta area
- Recognized as Silver Sponsor in pre-event emails distributed to more than 3,500 metro Atlanta business and community leaders
- Recognized as Silver Sponsor on event page of Atlanta Press Club website
- One half-page ad in event program
- Logo featured in Hall of Fame event program
- Logo featured onscreen before and during Hall of Fame event
- Recognition by master of ceremonies
- Video of event will be available on our website and YouTube channel.

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