

CT Press Club

Mark Twain Journalist of the Year Award

2007 Winner – Hugh Mulligan

In a five-decade reporting career, Hugh Mulligan, AP Special Correspondent, covered the Vietnam War, went to China with Nixon, hung out with Salvador Dali, flew over the North Pole in a blimp, and squared danced with nudists. He also drank with John Steinbeck, covered the deaths of three popes and President Kennedy, and was the only reporter - British or American - at the wedding and the funeral of Princess Diana. Plus, for ten years, he catapulted his wit and spirited prose into a thrice-weekly column, "Mulligan's Stew," published in 400 daily newspapers in the U.S. and in many more around the world. He is the author of three books, including "No Place to Die: The Agony of Vietnam." Among his many awards is the 1967 Overseas Press Club Award for his coverage of Viet Nam.

2006 Winner - Robert E. Button

Robert E. Button is a retired U.S. Army Colonel with a lifetime of pioneering experiences in the military, diplomatic and broadcasting arenas. He started out with NBC Studios as a studio page, working his way up to Assistant Program Manager before WWII interrupted his career. Years later, he would become Director of Voice of America because of his leadership, background in broadcasting and experience during WWII in secret intelligence. His multifaceted career included a stint in Paris as the Public Affairs Assistant to U.S. Ambassador to NATO. He also served as Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Board of COMCAST. He is one of three founders of Cablevision of Connecticut. He is a pianist, composer and author of "Enigma in Many Keys," a book about his WWII experience while in the secret intelligence.

2005 Winner - No contest held this year

2004 Winner - Morton Schindel

Morton Schindel is known as the "true pioneer" of the multimedia approach to children's books. As producer of over 300 motion pictures, 450 sound film strips, recordings and videos, he set the industry standard for over 50 years. He is founder of Weston Woods Studio which became part of Scholastic, Inc.

2003 Winner - Andree Aelion Brooks

Andree Aelion Brooks, award-winning author of "Children of Fast Track Parents," was a contributing columnist and news writer for *The New York Times* for over 18 years. She was founder and first president of the women's Campaign School at Yale. She is producer of "Out of Spain," a teaching video and multi-media educational program for children, grades 5 to 7. Her latest book, "The Woman Who Defied Kings: the life and times of Dona Gracia Nasi," is about the life of a 16th century woman banker who developed an escape network that saved hundreds of Jews from the Inquisition. Andree is a long-time Connecticut Press Club member.

2002 Winner - Diane Smith

Diane Smith originated the idea of "Positively Connecticut," which today she hosts and produces for CPTV. She also co-hosts WTIC - 1080 Morning Drive-Time Radio Show. For more than 16 years, she was an Emmy award winning news anchor and reporter for WTNH-TV in New Haven. In 201, she was named "Person of the Year" by The Homebuilders Association of New Haven. She also received the Connecticut Tourism Industry's Media Award for "Positively Connecticut." She has been called a "goodwill Ambassador" for the state. She is author of "Positively Connecticut," published in 1998, "Absolutely Positively Connecticut," published in 2000, and "Christmas in Connecticut," published in 2001.

2001 Winner - Lawrence Fellows (Post-humously)

Lawrence Fellows was a journalist, reporter and foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*. He was also the Connecticut Bureau Chief for the *Times* and introduced the Connecticut Weekly as a supplement to that newspaper's Sunday edition. He founded the weekly newspaper, *Greenwich News*. At one time, he served as editor for the *Westport News*, *Westport Minuteman* and the daily *Greenwich Time*. He wrote two books, "East Africa," published in 1972, and "A Gentle War: The Story of the Salvation Army," published in 1979, both by Macmillan. Fellows was a lover of language and word play, his columns appearing weekly in local newspapers in Connecticut and as far away as China.