



Nevada Press Foundation Announces 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

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LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The Nevada Press Foundation is proud to announce the 2026 inductees into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame, honoring four distinguished journalists whose work has shaped Nevada journalism, public life and the communities they served.

Mary Hynes has spent more than 30 years as one of Nevada's most respected reporters, editors and newsroom leaders. Since joining the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 1988, Hynes has worked as a reporter, assistant city editor, city editor, health reporter and investigative reporter. As city editor from 2000 to 2012, she guided coverage through many of Southern Nevada's defining stories, including the Sept. 11 attacks and their Las Vegas connections, rapid regional growth, the Yucca Mountain fight, the Great Recession, public corruption cases, major criminal trials and statewide public health crises. After returning to reporting in 2019, she helped lead award-winning coverage of the Alpine Motel fire and became a leading voice in the Review-Journal's COVID-19 reporting before joining the investigative team. Hynes was named Nevada's Outstanding Journalist in 1994 and again in 2025.

Ron Kantowski spent nearly four decades chronicling sports and the people behind them for Las Vegas readers, first at the Las Vegas Sun and later at the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Known for his wit, voice and human-interest storytelling, Kantowski helped capture the evolution of Las Vegas from a market without major league teams into one of the nation's most important sports cities. His work covered UNLV athletics, motorsports, boxing, community sports, professional franchises and the Vegas Golden Knights' inaugural run to the Stanley Cup Final. Named the 2016 Nevada Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sports Media Association, Kantowski built a legacy not simply by reporting scores, but by finding the people, humor and meaning behind Nevada sports.

Mike Smith has been the Las Vegas Sun's editorial cartoonist since 1983, using sharp visual commentary to document more than four decades of Nevada and national public life. His work has been nationally syndicated by King Features Syndicate and has appeared in major newspapers including USA Today, The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post. For more than 20

years, his weekly cartoon also appeared in USA Today. Smith's cartoons have chronicled presidential administrations, state and local politics, civic debates and the growth of Southern Nevada, earning numerous state, regional and national honors. In 2023, Smith and Sun publisher Brian Greenspun donated more than 13,000 original cartoons to UNLV Libraries Special Collections & Archives, preserving a major visual record of Nevada journalism and history.

Howard Stutz has built a Nevada journalism career that dates to the 1980s, beginning on the sports pages before becoming one of the state's most respected reporters on gaming, tourism and business. His career has included reporting for the Las Vegas Sun and the Las Vegas Review-Journal, serving as executive editor of CDC Gaming Reports and, most recently, working as a senior reporter for The Nevada Independent. Stutz is widely regarded as one of Nevada's foremost authorities on gaming, known for translating complex business, regulatory and economic issues into clear, accessible journalism and for bringing historical context to one of the state's most important industries. He also was part of the Review-Journal team that uncovered the Adelson family's secret purchase of the newspaper, work that earned national ethics and courage-in-journalism recognition. Colleagues also cite his mentorship, professionalism and generosity with younger journalists.

Induction ceremony

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas. The ceremony will honor the remarkable careers of this year's inductees, with additional event details to be announced by the Nevada Press Foundation.

" Mary Hynes, Ron Kantowski, Mike Smith and Howard Stutz represent the remarkable range of Nevada newspaper journalism," said Brian Allfrey, executive director of the Nevada Press Foundation. "Their careers show the power of reporting, editing, commentary, visual journalism and storytelling to document our state, hold institutions accountable and help Nevadans better understand the communities they call home."

The Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the newspaper industry in Nevada. It is administered by the Nevada Press Foundation.

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