List of Heroes

Scientists, Engineers and Inventors

Walter Alvarez, Ph.D. – Professor of Earth and Planetary Science, Geologist, Archaeologist, Co-discoverer of the Evidence that an Asteroid Destroyed the Dinosaurs

Neil Armstrong – Aviator, Test Pilot, Astronaut, Professor, Best Known as the First Man on the Moon


Eleanor Baum, Ph.D. – Engineer, Educator, Dean of Engineering at Cooper Union

Sir Tim Berners-Lee – British Professor of Computer Science at Southampton, Director of the World Wide Web Consortium, Known as the Inventor of the Internet

Derek Cabrera, Ph.D. – Expert on Thinking Skills and Systems Thinking

K. Eric Drexler, Ph.D. – Researcher, Inventor, Author, Visionary, Best Known as the Popularizer of Molecular Nanotechnology

Lisa Gable – A Grandmother of Invention

Bill Gates – Computer Wizard, Entrepreneur, Businessman, Visionary, Philanthropist, Recognized as the Man behind Microsoft

Murray Gell-Mann, Ph.D. – Theoretical Physicist, Nobel Prize Winner, Linguist, Best Known for His Discovery of the Quark

Brian Greene, Ph.D. – Professor of Mathematics and Physics at Columbia University

Stephen Hawking, Ph.D. – English Theoretical Physicist and Author, Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University (Best Known for his Theories on Cosmology and his Science Books)

Homer Hickam, Jr. – Former NASA Engineer, Writer, and Author of Best Selling Books


Rush Holt, Ph.D. – Physicist, Energy Researcher, Best Known as a United States Congressman

Dean Kamen – American Inventor and Entrepreneur, and President of DEKA Research, Best Known for His Invention of the Segway Personal Transporter

Stephanie Kwolek – Chemist, Inventor, and Best Known as the Inventor of Kevlar
Alan Lightman, Ph.D. – Astrophysicist and Author of Non-Fiction and Fiction Works, Professor of Science and Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Marvin Minsky, Ph.D. – Cognitive Scientist in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Researcher, Robotics Pioneer, Inventor, Author, Credited with Originating the Field of AI

Henry Orenstein – President of Topper Toys, Inc., Prolific Inventor, Author, Philanthropist, Best Known for Inventing Children’s Transformer Toys

Les Paul – Famed Jazz/Pop Guitarist, Entertainer and Inventor, Best Known for His Electric Guitar Invention and Sound Effects

Henry Petroski, Ph.D. – Professor of Engineering and History at Duke University, Author of Many Books on Engineering Design

Ron Popeil – Inventor, Salesman, TV Personality, and Entrepreneur, Best Known for His Kitchen Appliances and Gadgets

Sally Ride, Ph.D. – Physicist, Astronaut, Author, Professor of Physics, Company Founder, Best Known as First Women Astronaut

Kip Thorne, Ph.D. – Expert in Relativity and Gravitation, Professor of Theoretical Physics at California Institute of Technology, Author and Writer

Margaret Turnbull, Ph.D. – Astrobiologist, Best Known for Identifying and Cataloguing Habitable Star Systems

Neil deGrasse Tyson, Ph.D. – Astronomer, Director of the Hayden Planetarium and Professor of Astronomy, Princeton University

H Ty Warner – Entrepreneur and Inventor of Beanie Babies

Anthony Winston – Chemist, Inventor, New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee, “Mr. Baking Soda”

Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs – Engineer-Programmers and Inventors of the Apple Personal Computer, Door-Openers to the Future

Medicine and Biology

Ben Carson, MD – Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at The Johns Hopkins University Medical Center


Atul Gawande, MD – Surgeon and Author
Jane Goodall, Ph.D. – Primatologist and Leader of International Environmental Organizations

Sherwin B. Nuland, MD – Surgeon and Author

Oliver Sacks, MD – Neurologist and Author

Professor Edward O. Wilson – Evolutionary Biologist, Harvard University


Literature and Poetry

Geraldine Brooks – Author and Pulitzer Prize Winner

Annie Dillard – Noted Author and Pulitzer Prize Winner

Rita Dove -- Poet and Professor of English, the University of Virginia

Khaled Hosseini – Afghan-American Novelist and Medical Doctor

John Jakes – Gifted Hero of Historical Fiction

Garrison Keillor – Humorist, Storyteller, Author, and Host of A Prairie Home Companion

Mario Vargas Llosa -- Peruvian Author

Gabriel García Márquez – Columbian Author, Inventor of Magical Realism and Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature

Larry McMurtry – Author and Book Lover

N. Scott Momaday, Ph.D. – Native American Creative Writer, Artist and Activist

Mary Oliver -- Poet of Nature and Quietude

Jeff Shaara – Novelist of American Military History


Helen Vendler, Ph.D. – Professor of English and American Literature, Harvard University

Music, Art, Dance and Media

Joshua Bell – Classical Music Violinist
Review: Books on Musical Talent

Pierre Boulez – Composer, Conductor, and Writer

James Burke – Documentary Television Producer, Historian of Science, Author

Ken Burns – Master Documentary Film Producer and Director

Deborah Butterfield – Contemporary Sculptor, Master of Horse

Plácido Domingo – Genius of Opera Performance and Humanitarian

Hugh Downs – Journalist, Interviewer, Media Personality, Known for his Coverage of Important American Issues and the Space Program

Gustavo Dudamel – Symphony Orchestra Conductor and Violinist, Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic

Marvin Frederick Hamlisch – Extraordinary American Composer

Judith Jamison – Artistic Director and Choreographer, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Stan Lee – Gifted Author of Comic Book Heroes

Wynton Marsalis – Classical and Jazz Trumpet Player, Composer, Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Itzhak Perlman – Gifted Violinist, Conductor and Teacher

Martin Puryear – Sculptor Beyond Borders

Dal Richards – Clarinetist, Saxophonist, Bandleader, Composer, Arranger, and Mentor

Wayne Thiebaud – Contemporary American Artist

Michael Tilson Thomas – Pianist, Conductor, and Composer

André Watts – Concert Pianist and Heroic Genius of Multiculturalism