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**DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE TO HONOR WIL HAYGOOD WITH
AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

***Author of [Colorization](#), [Tigerland](#), [The Butler](#), and [Showdown](#)
will be honored in Dayton on November 13, 2022***

Dayton, OH (August 16, 2022) – Wil Haygood, whose books chronicle the struggles and triumphs of 20th-century Black Americans - from high-profile politicians to high school basketball players, will receive the 2022 [Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award](#), the Dayton Literary Peace Prize announced today.

The award is named in honor of the celebrated U.S. diplomat who negotiated the [1995 Dayton Peace Accords](#) that ended the war in Bosnia. Founded in 2006, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize is the only international literary peace prize awarded in the United States, honoring writers whose work uses the power of literature to foster peace, social justice, and global understanding.

The award will be presented to Haygood at the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Gala on November 13, 2022 by Dayton native Clarence Page, the Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated [columnist](#), journalist, and Chicago Tribune editorial board member. One of the most widely regarded voices on American culture, politics, and Black identity, Page has received lifetime achievement awards from the Chicago Headline Club, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists and the National Association of Black Journalists.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Haygood traveled the world as a journalist, writing about war, peace, and political activism. During his career as a correspondent, he was taken hostage by Somali rebels while covering the Somali Civil War. Haygood witnessed the release of Nelson Mandela while covering apartheid in South Africa. In the US, Haygood spent 40 days in Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, slipped into a South Carolina prison to interview soul-singer James Brown, and covered the Los Angeles Riots. After publishing two memoirs, he published seven biographies illuminating Black American subjects who fought to bring us closer to a peaceful and just society. His seminal works include *Showdown*, which details the contentious 1967 battle to get Thurgood Marshall onto the Supreme Court, and *Tigerland*, which followed athletes at an all-Black high school as they captured two state titles in Columbus, Ohio. His book *The Butler*, based on the life of Eugene Allen who served eight presidents at the White House, was adapted to become an award-winning film directed by Lee Daniels. Haygood's most recent book, *Colorization*, takes a century-long look at Hollywood's handling of the dreams of Black actors, actresses, writers, and directors.

"For three decades, Haygood has captured the sweep of American culture, focusing on the rarely or never-told stories of the Black experience with the analysis that this nation so desperately needs," said Sharon Rab, the founder, and chair of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation. "We are thrilled to honor one of Ohio's greatest authors with the international recognition that his body of work deserves."

On winning the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, Haygood said:

“The history of America - much of the world even - is marked by a relentless struggle for peace. This is our hard climb. Where it concerns Black Americans and their quest for justice, I’ve been drawn to many stories, often stories missing from the history books. My real-life characters ask a simple question when it comes to peace: Why can’t we all get along? From Jackson, Mississippi, to Chicago; from the Los Angeles that had erupted in rebellion because of police brutality to war-torn Somalia, I’ve heard the same question from both young and old. So, the harder the peace, the more I want to write.”

Haygood will join the ranks of past winners of the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, formerly called the Lifetime Achievement Award, including Studs Terkel (2006), Elie Wiesel (2007), Taylor Branch (2008), Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (2009), Geraldine Brooks (2010), Barbara Kingsolver (2011), Tim O’Brien (2012), Wendell Berry (2013), Louise Erdrich (2014), Gloria Steinem (2015), Marilynne Robinson (2016), Colm Tóibín (2017), John Irving (2018), N. Scott Momaday (2019), and Margaret Atwood (2020 & 2021).

The finalists for the 2022 Dayton Literary Peace Prize in fiction and nonfiction will be announced on September 13, 2022.

About the Dayton Literary Peace Prize

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize honors writers whose work uses the power of literature to foster peace, social justice, and global understanding. Launched in 2006, it is recognized as one of the world’s most prestigious literary honors and is the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States. As an offshoot of the Dayton Peace Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize awards a \$10,000 cash prize each year to one fiction and one nonfiction author whose work advances peace as a solution to conflict, and leads readers to a better understanding of other cultures, peoples, religions, and political points of view. Additionally, the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award is bestowed upon a writer whose body of work reflects the Prize’s mission; previous honorees include Margaret Atwood, Wendell Berry, Taylor Branch, Geraldine Brooks, Louise Erdrich, John Irving, Barbara Kingsolver, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, N. Scott Momaday, Tim O’Brien, Marilynne Robinson, Gloria Steinem, Studs Terkel, Colm Tóibín, and Elie Wiesel. For more information visit the Dayton Literary Peace Prize media center at <http://daytonliterarypeaceprize.org/press.htm>.

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