

Newspaper columnist and orator, T. Willard Hunter is the author of The Spirit of Charles Lindbergh: Another Dimension. His revival of Fourth of July oratory was recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records (1984 & 1985) for his 34 hours 8 minutes address at Independence Hall in 1982. He has been featured on the front pages of the Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, Philadelphia Inquirer, Manchester Union Leader, Pasadena Star News, Bellingham Herald, Oologah Leader, Maui News, and Sioux City Journal. He has spoken at Boston's Faneuil Hall, at Speakers Corner in London's Hyde Park, and at most of the major historic sites in America. He has been a recurrent keynoter at the Lindbergh center in Minnesota, and the Will Rogers Memorial in Oklahoma. He is consultant to the Lindbergh Foundation on Hawaii relations. In 1987, he was Centennial Grand Marshal of Claremont's Independence Day parade, and in 1991 he instigated an alteration in the Claremont city logo, changing date from 1907 to 1887.

He founded:

- (1) Claremont's Fourth of July citizens oratory program in 1977;
- (2) The Good Friday Way of the Cross in Claremont in 1980; and
- (3) The Annual Labor Day Walk to Los Angeles from San Gabriel in 1981.

Hunter was educated at Carleton College, Harvard Law School, and Andover Newton Theological School. In college, he was a champion orator and debater, president of the student body, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and captain of the Midwest championship cross country team.

His career has included higher education and the Christian ministry, serving colleges and churches in New Hampshire, Minnesota, southern California, and Hawaii. In World War II, he was a tactical officer at The Infantry School, Fort Benning. In the 40s/ 50s, he served in Washington DC, Michigan, and Africa, as an associate of Frank Buchman, initiator of Moral Re-Armament (formerly Oxford Group), which gave rise to Alcoholics Anonymous. In the 1970s, Hunter built a bridge between OG/MRA and AA, after a 40-year hiatus and is author of It Started Right There, the story behind the Twelve Steps. He was the chief architect of the Frank Buchman Centennial in Pennsylvania, 1977-1991. Hunter has taught public speaking in the Chino CA Women's Prison, and is a director of Recovery Services, a substance-abuse program.

Hunter was born in Idaho, reared in Minnesota, the son of Stuart McK Hunter, English professor at Carleton 1919-1952, and Louise Willard of Galesburg IL. Now lives in Claremont CA with wife Mary Louise, a community volunteer and former college administrator. Two living sons: one a minister-folksinger, Bellingham WA, the other a family physician in Garberville CA. There are four grandchildren.

Other publications Hunter has authored: The Tax Climate for Philanthropy, written while a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution, and World Changing Through Life Changing, unpublished master's thesis on Frank Buchman and Moral Re-Armament. He also edited The Role of the Foundation in American Life by Dean Rusk. Hunter's addresses have appeared in Vital Speeches of the Day in 1990 and 1993. In the 60s/70s, he was the USA correspondent of Rajmohan Gandhi's HIMMAT, Bombay newsmagazine. In the 1980s he wrote and published WORDS, a periodical for speakers and writers. He collaborated with Jim Newton on a memoir of 20th Century giants, Uncommon Friends and, with actor Joel McCrea, on "I Remember Will Rogers," an article for Modern Maturity. Edited and wrote the foreword for James W. Angell's The Romance of Preaching. Hunter's column appears in CA and IL.