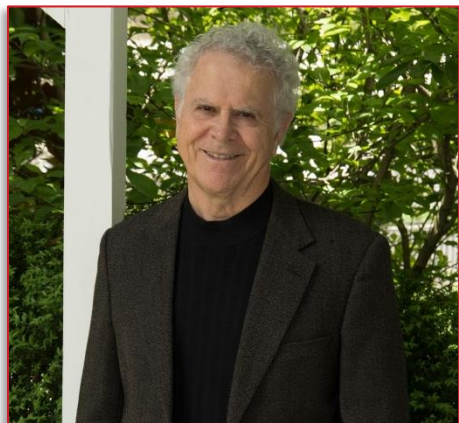


HOMER HICKAM

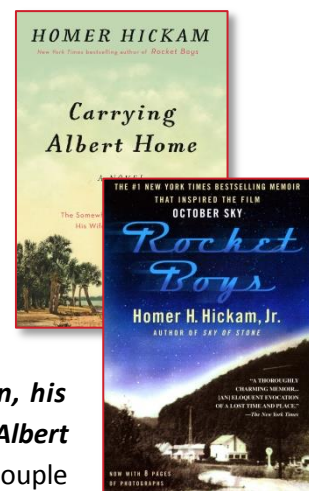
MASTER STORYTELLER & BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF OCTOBER SKY

Exclusive Representation by Greater Talent Network



Homer Hickam burst onto the national scene in 1999 when his memoir ***Rocket Boys*** (aka ***October Sky***) reached #1 on the New York Times best-selling list. The story of his life growing up in the little mining town of Coalwood, West Virginia, and especially his high school years when he built high-flying rockets, the memoir has gone on to become a classic. ***Rocket Boys*** is studied in hundreds of schools and colleges across the country as an important literary work, has been translated into eight languages, and picked by

more American cities for their annual Community Reads than any other book. In short, Homer Hickam's memoir, which was also adapted into the popular movie ***October Sky*** starring Jake Gyllenhaal as young Homer, has become an absolute phenomenon.



His 18th book, ***Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of a Man, his Wife, and her Alligator*** was published in October 2015. ***Carrying Albert Home*** tells the sweet, funny and sometimes heartbreaking tale of a young couple and their special pet on a crazy 1,000 mile journey.

AT THE PODIUM

Homer is a legendary story-teller in the tradition of the people of the Appalachian Mountains where he was raised. He tells gentle, humorous stories of the people of Coalwood and his days as the original ***Rocket Boy***. His appreciative audiences are laughing one moment and holding back tears the next. It is for this reason he was chosen to give the keynote address for the miners lost in the 2006 Sago mine tragedy. This address, broadcast worldwide, struck a chord with national and international audiences. Astonished at the sheer poetry of Homer's heartfelt paean to the fallen miners, as well as working men and women everywhere, he was honored with global standing ovations.

BIOGRAPHY DETAILS

Hickam has been a writer since 1969 after his return from Vietnam. At first, he mostly wrote about his scuba diving adventures for a variety of different magazines. Then, after diving on many of the wrecks involved, he branched off into writing about the battle against the U-boats along the American east coast during World War II. This resulted in his first book, ***Torpedo Junction*** (1989), a military history best-seller published in 1989 by the Naval Institute Press.

Hickam coauthored, *My Dream of Stars: From Daughter of Iran to Space Pioneer*, the memoir of Anousheh Ansari, the first Muslim woman to travel into space. He is also the author of a popular series of novels that feature Josh Thurlow, a Coast Guard officer during World War II. The series began with *The Keeper's Son* (2003), then continued with *The Ambassador's Son* (2005) and *The Far Reaches* (2007). Homer also wrote his Helium-3 novels titled *Crater* (2012), *Crescent* (2013), and *Crater Trueblood and the Lunar Rescue Company* (2014). These two series have been heavily praised by critics and readers as have Homer's novel about a coal miner's wife in *Red Helmet* (2008), and a thriller set in modern-day Montana titled *The Dinosaur Hunter* (2010).

While working on his writing career, Mr. Hickam was employed as an engineer for the U.S. Army Missile Command from 1971 to 1981 assigned to Huntsville, Alabama, and Germany. He began employment with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Marshall Space Flight Center in 1981 as an aerospace engineer. During his NASA career, Mr. Hickam worked in spacecraft design and crew training. His specialties at NASA included training astronauts on science payloads, and extravehicular activities (EVA). He also trained astronaut crews for many Spacelab and Space Shuttle missions, including the Hubble Space Telescope deployment mission, the first two Hubble repair missions, Spacelab-J (the first Japanese astronauts), and the Solar Max repair mission. Prior to his retirement in 1998, Mr. Hickam was the Payload Training Manager for the International Space Station Program.

In 1984, Mr. Hickam was presented with Alabama's Distinguished Service Award for heroism shown during a rescue effort of the crew and passengers of a sunken paddleboat in the Tennessee River. Because of this award, Mr. Hickam was honored in 1996 by the United States Olympic Committee to carry the Olympic Torch through Huntsville, Alabama, on its way to Atlanta.

Mr. Hickam has received many awards and honors. Among them are the prestigious University of Alabama's Clarence Cason Award and the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award for his memoirs and fiction. He also received an honorary Doctorate of Literature from Marshall University'

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Mr. Hickam is married to Linda Terry Hickam, an artist and his first editor and assistant. They love their cats and share their time between homes in Alabama and the Virgin Islands.

SUGGESTED SPEECH TOPICS

- **Adventure, Rocket Ships, Lighthouses, and the Dreams of Boys**
- **A Rocket Won't Fly Unless Somebody Lights the Fuse:** How to Prosper in Hard Times the Rocket Boys Way
- **The Coalwood Way:** Lessons in Personal Responsibility and Leadership
- **October Sky:** Turning Dreams Into Reality