



John Avlon is senior columnist for Newsweek and the Daily Beast as well as a CNN contributor. He is the author of *Independent Nation: How Centrists Can Change American Politics* and *Wingnuts: How the Lunatic Fringe is Hijacking America* as well as editor of the anthology *Deadline Artists: America's Greatest Newspaper Columns*. Previously, he was a columnist and associate editor for the New York Sun and chief speechwriter for New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

After the attacks of September 11th, 2001, he and his team were responsible for writing the eulogies for all firefighters and police officers murdered in the destruction of the World Trade Center. Avlon's essay on the attacks, "The Resilient City" concluded the anthology *Empire City: New York through the Centuries* and won acclaim as "the single best essay written in the wake of 9/11."

Avlon has appeared on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, CNN, Real Time with Bill Maher, PBS, and C-Span. He has spoken at the Kennedy School of Government, the Citadel, the State Department's visiting journalist program, and civic organizations around the nation.

He serves on the board of Citizens Union of New York and The Bronx Academy of Letters as well as the advisory board of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. He was appointed to the New York City Voter Assistance Advisory Committee in 2011.

In a profile, author Stephen Marshall wrote "Avlon talks about politics the way ESPN anchors wrap up sports highlights." Columnist Kathleen Parker wrote, "Americans who are fed up with the Ann Coulter/Michael Moore school of debate and are looking for someone to articulate a commonsense, middle path, may have found their voice in John Avlon."

He is married to Margaret Hoover, the author of [*American Individualism*](#). They live in New York City.