



# FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

---

## www.fpa.org

**FPA Town Hall**  
**Thomas Michaud Introduction**  
**Thursday, May 31, 2012, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**  
**The Pierre Hotel, 2 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street at Fifth Avenue, New York, NY**

*Featuring:*

**Thomas Michaud**

MR. THOMAS MICHAUD: Good evening and thank you again for joining us for this terrific event. I am so delighted to have the honor of presenting the Foreign Policy Medal to my friend, Henry Fernandez.

There are so many great reasons why Henry is deserving of this award. I can point you to the biography in tonight's program and you can see many of the reason's why. And Henry, in addition to you being accomplished, friendly, and outgoing, I have always known you to be a smart fellow. But after reading the biography I think that degrees from Georgetown, Princeton and Stanford is just plain showing off.

Before I turn the evening over to Henry, I would like to tell you a few things I have learned about him over the years and why I think he is deserving of tonight's award. These are facts that are not listed in the official biography. Henry was born in Mexico City and was raised in his native country of Nicaragua. He went to the United States for the first time when he was to show up for his first day of school at Georgetown University when he was sixteen years old. He used his powers of persuasion to talk the Nicaraguan Government into appointing him a diplomat while he was a student at Georgetown when he was only seventeen years old. On official business he visited the White House, the Organization of American States and worked with the senior most ambassadors serving in Washington.

In 1979 when the Nicaraguan Government fell to the communists his family fled his home country and moved to the United States. His dad had served as the Head of the Armed Forces in Nicaragua and they could no longer stay home. Henry lived in the

United States, earned his American citizenship, which he is very proud of, and took advantage of the finest educational institutions in the world.

He was then recruited to Morgan Stanley. He eventually was asked to lead the unit that became MSCI. When he started it had \$9 million in revenues, seventy employees, and only a few of them overseas. Today, MSCI has \$900 million in revenues, twenty-five hundred employees in twenty countries, six thousand clients in eighty countries. Forty-five percent of his employees are based in emerging market countries. MSCI has become

Henry himself has visited over a hundred countries in his lifetime and he has several key beliefs. Henry believes in the interconnectedness of nations and its peoples. He think it is important for good global citizenship and you can see it every day in how he runs MSCI. Almost all of his fifteen hundred employees overseas are native to the country in which they are employed.

And lastly, Henry is someone who is eager to give back and that is probably one of the best examples of citizenship that I can imagine. With that, I would like to present the Foreign Policy Medal to our recipient this evening, Henry Fernandez.