

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Kenneth Crooks

PERSON

Crooks, Kenneth, Jr., 1931-

Alternative Names: Kenneth Crooks;

Life Dates: September 12, 1931-

Place of Birth: Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Nonprofit Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Georgian civic leader Kenneth Crooks, Jr. was born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 12, 1931. He attended elementary school in Hampton, Virginia and secondary school in Jamaica, West Indies. Crooks graduated in 1957 from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelors Degree of Business Administration and received a Masters of Business Administration from Atlanta University in 1962.

Crooks went to work for the National Urban League in its Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia, covering twelve southern states in 1962. His responsibilities there included providing technical support for local Urban Leagues and developing new affiliates in the South. Crooks remained at the Urban League until 1991, taking time off in 1972 to assist Maynard Jackson's first campaign for Mayor of Atlanta. During his tenure at the Urban League, he worked in Economic Development and Employment, Education, Housing, Counseling and Community Awareness programs. He also developed programs for youth in fine arts, creating the Summer Youth Academy, the "Do the Right Thing" Rallies and brought the Chattahoochee Court-Appointed Special Advocates program for deprived and neglected children to the community.

In 1993, Crooks moved to Columbus, Georgia to serve as President of the Urban League of Greater Columbus. He had previously held the position of Community Service Specialist and Assistant Director of Development at the Fort Valley State College. Crooks also serves as Special Assistant to the pastor at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church. He has received several awards recognizing his service to the community, including "Man of the Year" for 2001, given by the Men's Progressive Club of Columbus.

Related Entries

Clark Atlanta University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

MBA

University of Massachusetts Amherst [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

BA

Grambling State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1959 to 1960]

Accountant

Atlanta University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1962 to 1963]

Assistant, Office of the President

National Urban League (NUL) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1963 to 1966]

Assistant Director

National Urban League (NUL) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1966 to 1969]

Director, E.K. Jones Training Center

National Urban League (NUL) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to 1971]

Education Director

National Urban League (NUL) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to 1989]

Deputy Director

Urban League of Broward County [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1991]

Director

Fort Valley State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 1992]

Assistant Director of Development

Fort Valley State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 1993]

Community Service Specialist

Urban League of Greater Columbus [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 2001]

President/Chief Executive Officer

Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2001 to ?]

Special Assistant to the Pastor

Delete [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197303 to 197310]

Campaign Coordinator

National Urban League (NUL) [MEMBEROf]
[from 2006 to 2011]

Atlanta Urban League [MEMBEROf]
[from 2004 to 2009]

Urban League of Greater Columbus [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Leadership Atlanta [MEMBEROf]
[from 199009 to ?]

Kenneth Crooks, Jr. Collection, Columbus State University.