

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Frances Hooks

PERSON

Hooks, Frances, 1927-2016

Alternative Names: Frances Hooks; Frances Louise Dancy Hooks ;

Life Dates: February 23, 1927-January 14, 2016

Place of Birth: Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Residence: Memphis, TN

Occupations: Civic Leader

Biographical Note

Educator and consultant Frances Louise Dancy Hooks was born February 23, 1927, in Memphis Tennessee. Hooks's parents, Georgia Harriet Graves Dancy and Andrew Jackson Dancy raised her on Edith Street in Memphis. Hooks attended St. Anthony La Rose Elementary School and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School where Hooks was sophomore class president in 1944. Hooks later attended Howard, Fisk, and Wilberforce Universities, graduating in 1949.

Hooks taught second grade in a Shelby County, Tennessee Rosenwald School. Hooks met Benjamin Hooks at the Tri-State Fair; the couple were married in 1951. In 1956, the Hooks desegregated the all white Parkway East community. Hooks put her career as a teacher and guidance counselor on hold in the late 1960s to support the activities of her husband, Benjamin Hooks, who by then was a businessman, lawyer, judge, and minister. Hooks became her husband's assistant, secretary, advisor, and traveling companion. Moving to Washington, D.C. in 1972, Hooks helped her husband become the first black appointee to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

In 1977, Hooks's husband became executive director of the NAACP; she also became involved with the organization, and formed Women in the NAACP (WIN) with Earleen Bolden in 1980. WIN raised money for emergency relief by putting on fashion shows and social events; she also co-founded The People Power Project, which promoted black and white dialog, and the Memphis Volunteer Placement Program, which is now run by the Rotary Club.

Renewing their vows in 2001, Hooks and her husband raised one daughter, Patricia.

Hooks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 13, 2005.

Hooks passed away on January 14, 2016.

Related Entries

Booker T. Washington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

LaRose Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

St. Anthony School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wilberforce University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fisk University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Rosenwald School - Shelby County, Tennessee [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Teacher

NAACP [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Women in NAACP [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

Memphis Volunteer Placement Program [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

The People's Power Project [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder