

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Anita J. Ponder

PERSON

Ponder, Anita J., 1961-

Alternative Names: Anita J. Ponder;

Life Dates: April 16, 1961-

Place of Birth: Fort Valley, Georgia, USA

Residence: Cedar Hill, TX

Occupations: City Council Member; Museum Executive

Biographical Note

Anita J. Ponder is president of the Macon City Council and director of education at the Tubman African American Museum in Macon, Georgia, the largest museum of its kind in the Southeast. Prior to serving on the city council, Ponder served as judge of the Municipal Court in her hometown of Fort Valley, Georgia. Ponder was born April 16, 1961, the oldest of three children of Clifford and Margie Ponder of Fort Valley, Georgia.

Ponder received her B.S. degree in journalism/communications from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, and her J.D. degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. She served as editor of the Law Review during her second year of law school. Ponder formed a lucrative partnership with a fellow classmate and practiced criminal and personal injury law immediately following law school. She resigned from the firm and returned to her hometown to fulfill her life long ambition to work in the public sector. Ponder became judge of the Municipal Court in Fort Valley, a position that she held for four and a half years. She volunteered at the Tubman African American Museum in Macon, Georgia, while it was in its infancy. She helped the museum to expand its exhibits nationally and internationally, and became director of its educational programs.

Ponder was appointed to the Macon City Council in 1998. In her role as president of the council, she has aided in the revitalization of the city through the neighborhood redevelopment plan. She continues to play a major role in the construction of the multi-million dollar facility that will house the Tubman Museum. Annually, in December, Ponder and friends host the Holiday Feast for All that feeds community members during the holiday season. Ponder is the editor of a recently published book: Standing on Their Shoulders: A Celebration of the Wisdom of African American Women by Dr.

Catherine Meeks. She raises Arabian horses, collects antique cars, and organizes antique car shows.

Ponder serves on the boards of the Macon State College Foundation, Macon Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Coalition of Black Women, and Newtown Macon. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Rotary International.

Related Entries

Peach County High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Houston College of Law [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fort Valley Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

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

Ponder and Jordan [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1992]

Partner

Tubman Museum [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to ?]

Education Director

City of Fort Valley, Georgia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1994 to 1997]

Municipal Judge

City Of Macon, Georgia [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1998 to ?]

City Council Member

Macon State College Foundation [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Trustees

Macon Chamber of Commerce [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

NewTown Macon [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board Officer

Georgia Coalition of Black Women [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Rotary International [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member