

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Ragsbert Phillips

PERSON

Phillips, Ragsbert, 1948-

**Alternative Names:** Dr. Ragsbert Phillips; Dr. Ragsbert Phillips

**Life Dates:** July 12, 1948-

**Place of Birth:** Newnan, Georgia, USA

**Residence:** Snellville, GA

**Work:** Lithonia, GA

**Occupations:** Surgeon

## Biographical Note

Breast cancer specialist Dr. Ragsbert Frenzel Phillips was born on July 12, 1948, in Newnan, Georgia, to Olivia Louise Bohannon Mitchell and Zack Phillips. Phillips attended the University of Georgia and graduated in 1970. She also attended and graduated from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons with her M.D. degree. In 1982, Phillips became the first African American woman to complete the general surgery program at Emory University.

Phillips started her general surgery practice in Atlanta, Georgia, and decided to specialize in the treatment and prevention of breast cancer. She is one of the top breast cancer specialists in the United States. In 1989, Phillips founded Sisters By Choice, a support group providing educational, emotional, spiritual, and physical resources to breast cancer survivors, their families, and other health care professionals. The organization strives to be a leading provider of innovative programs and efforts that increase breast cancer education and awareness. The organization provides support and counsel to individuals diagnosed with breast cancer and their families. Phillips also started an annual Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend in Atlanta.

In 2000, Phillips participated in conducting experimental surgical procedures to detect and prevent breast cancer called ductal lavage. The procedure entails inserting a small scope into the breast under a local anesthetic to remove and test cells for abnormalities that could lead to cancer. This procedure could lead to the prevention of possible future breast cancer patients and could save future lives.

Phillips continues her general surgery practices in Atlanta and Lithonia, Georgia, and

has been practicing medicine for thirty years.

## Related Entries

**A.F. Herndon Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**E. P. Johnson Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Murphy High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Georgia** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.D.**

**University of Bridgeport** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Master's**

**Emory University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**American Cyanamid Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Researcher**

**University of Bridgeport** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Tutor**

**Private Practice** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Doctor**

**American College of Surgeons** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Sisters by Choice** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1989 to ?]

## Founder