

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with E. Don Sarreals

PERSON

Sarreals, E. Don, 1931-

**Alternative Names:** E. Don Sarreals;

**Life Dates:** September 22, 1931-

**Place of Birth:** Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Silver Spring, MD

**Occupations:** Atmospheric Scientist

## Biographical Note

Meteorologist E. Don Sarreals was born on September 22, 1931 in Winston Salem, North Carolina to parents Espriela Sarreals and Sadie Scales. While still a young child, Sarreal's family migrated to New York City. He attended New York City Public School No. 46 and New York City Junior High School No. 164 before graduating from Bronx High School of Science in 1949. Sarreals went on to earn his B.S. degree in meteorology from the City Colleges of New York in 1955 and his his M.S. degree in meteorology from New York University in 1958.

Before his career as a meteorologist began, Sarreals served in the U.S. Army in 1954 and worked as a part-time lecturer while earning his graduate degree. In 1961, Sarreals began his career as a weather radar supervisor in the National Weather Service (NWS) New York Forecast Office. In 1976, Sarreals accepted a position as the television meteorologist for the National Broadcasting Corporation's WRC-TV in Washington, D.C., from 1969 to 1975, while concurrently serving as president and consultant for Storm Finders, Inc. As the dissemination meteorologist for the NWS Headquarters from 1976 to 1980, Sarreals helped to develop the nation's first government-funded radio working system, NOAA Weather Radio. Sarreals also worked as the television meteorologist for the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting. From 1980 to 1992, Sarreals was assigned as chief of Operations and Requirements for the Next Generation Weather Radar Project (NEXRAD). In 1984, Sarreals was appointed chairman of the Working Group for Doppler Radar Meteorological Observation. Sarreals also served as a staff member in the NWS Modernization Division, and as as assistant federal coordinator for DOC/NOAA/NWS Affairs in the Office of the Federal Coordination for Meteorological Service.

Sarreals is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, a recipient of the Ward

Medal for proficiency in meteorology, and he is a member of the American Meteorological Society. Sarreals is also the author of the Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 1: National Weather Radio Operations supervised the development of Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 2: Doppler Weather Radar Observations. For his contributions and accomplishments, Sarreals was selected for inclusion in Who's Who Among Black Americans.

E. Don Sarreals was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 15, 2013.

## Related Entries

**P.S. 46 Arthur Tappan School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Junior High School 164** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Bronx High School of Science** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**City College of New York** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**City College of New York** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**New York University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Completed required credits**

**National Weather Service Operations Branch** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to 1976]

**Operational Meteorologist and Author**

**Nexrad Joint System Program Office** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to 1992]

**Chief, Operations & Training Branch**

**Working Group For Doppler Radar Meteorological Observation** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1984 to 1992]

**Chairman of Working Group**

**National Weather Service Modernization Division** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1992 to 1993]

**Staff Member**

**Office of Federal Coordinator For Meteorological Services** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 1997]

**Assistant Federal Coordinator**

**American Meteorological Society** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to ?]

**Member**

**National Weather Association** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2009 to ?]

**Member**

**River Terrace Apartments** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Chairman, Board of Directors**