

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Kneeland Youngblood

PERSON

Youngblood, Kneeland Conner, 1955-

Alternative Names: Dr. Kneeland Youngblood;

Life Dates: December 13, 1955-

Place of Birth: Galena Park, Texas, USA

Work: Dallas, TX

Occupations: Emergency Physician; Private Equity Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Physician, businessman, and presidential appointee Dr. Kneeland Youngblood, was born in Galena Park, Texas, on December 13, 1955. At the age of fourteen, Youngblood was working as a page on the floor of the Texas State Legislature; after graduating from high school, he attended Princeton University, earning his B.A. degree in political science in 1978. While at Princeton, Youngblood spent time studying abroad, attending both Warnborough College in Oxford, England, and the University of Stockholm in Sweden from 1976 to 1977. In 1978, only a few months shy of his graduation, Youngblood took part in a sit-in at Nassau Hall with two hundred other students to protest Princeton's investments in South African businesses, risking the threat of expulsion. Youngblood and the other students were not expelled, and in the autumn of 1978, he began attending the University of Texas Health Science Center, from which he earned his M.D. in 1982. During his studies at the University of Texas, Youngblood traveled to Egypt, where he studied at the Cairo University Medical School.

After earning his M.D., Youngblood moved to New York City, where he held a surgical internship with Columbia University for a year; in 1983, he moved and began his two-year residency in emergency medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. After completing his residency, Youngblood returned to Texas, taking a position as an emergency physician at the Medical Center of Plano, a Dallas suburb. Youngblood remained in Plano until he left the medical profession in 1997, at which time he co-founded and became the managing partner of Pharos Capital Group, LLC., a private equity firm that invests in technology, business services, and health care companies, and manages more than \$200 million in investments.

In 1993, Youngblood was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the board of directors of the United States Enrichment Corporation, a government-owned

corporation that provided nuclear fuel to countries hoping to utilize nuclear power. Youngblood remained at the United States Enrichment Corporation until 1998, at one point traveling with a delegation to South Africa, where he met with both F.W. DeKlerk and Nelson Mandela. Youngblood's time in South Africa prompted him to write an essay entitled From Sit-In to Soweto, detailing his experiences as a young man protesting South African policies dealing with working with the country. During his tenure with the Clinton Administration, Youngblood was also a part of First Lady Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force.

Youngblood served on the board of directors of numerous corporations and organizations, including the Teacher Retirement System of the State of Texas, an \$85 billion pension fund, and the boards of AMR Investments; Starwood Hotels & Lodging, Incorporated; Burger King, Incorporated; and The Gap, Incorporated. Youngblood also served as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Related Entries

Princeton University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Texas House of Representatives [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to ?]

Page

Columbia University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2002 to 2003]

Surgical Internship

Emory University School of Medicine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Residency in Emergency Medicine

Medical Center of Plano [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1986 to 1997]

Emergency Physician

White House [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2016 to ?]

United States Enrichment Corporation

Pharos Capital Group, LLC. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to ?]

Co-Founder and Managing Partner

Council on Foreign Relations [MEMBEROF]
[from 1995 to ?]

Member

AMR Investments [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Board of Directors

Starwood Hotels & Lodging [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Board of Directors