

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joseph Benjamin Anderson, Jr.

PERSON

Anderson, Joseph B., Jr., 1943-

Alternative Names: Joseph Benjamin Anderson, Jr.; Joseph Benjamin Anderson Jr.

Life Dates: February 12, 1943-

Place of Birth: Topeka, Kansas, USA

Residence: Bloomfield Hills, MI

Work: Wixom, MI

Occupations: Military Officer; Corporate Executive

Biographical Note

Corporate executive and military officer Joseph Benjamin Anderson was born on February 12, 1943, in Topeka, Kansas, to Pearl Gatewood and Joseph B. Anderson, Sr. His father was a widower with one son while his mother had two daughters from a previous marriage. An Eagle Scout and athlete, Anderson attended Washington Elementary School and East Topeka Junior High School before graduating with honors from Topeka High School in 1961. He entered the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York. While a cadet, Anderson spent two months in Uganda in 1964 with Operation Crossroads Africa. One of only four African Americans to graduate from West Point in 1965, he earned his B.S. degree in math and engineering and his commission as a second lieutenant. In 1972 and 1973, Anderson received master's degrees in political science and in African area studies from the University of California, Los Angeles and attended the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1977. He graduated from the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University Business School in 1984.

An officer in the 82nd Airborne Division, Anderson served two tours of duty with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam earning two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, three Army Commendation Medals and eleven Air Medals. As an infantry platoon leader, he was featured in Pierre Schoendoerffer's 1966 Oscar winning documentary, The Anderson Platoon. He served as aide-de-camp to two generals and taught as an assistant social sciences professor at West Point. He reached the rank of major before resigning his commission in 1978.

Selected as a White House Fellow in 1977, Anderson served as a special assistant to the

U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Juanita Kreps. In 1979, he joined the Pontiac Motors Division of General Motors Corporation and, in 1990, he served as the general director of the company's body hardware business unit. From 1992 to 1993, Anderson was the president and chief executive officer of auto parts manufacturer, Composite Energy Management Systems. He later served as the chairman and chief executive officer of Chivas Industries until 2002. He then joined TAG Holdings as chairman and chief executive officer. A board member of Quaker Chemical Corporation and ArvinMeritor, Anderson is also chairman of the Original Equipment Suppliers Association and director of the Society of Automobile Engineers Foundation. He also sits on the board of many non-profit organizations, including the Beaumont Foundation, Kettering University, Horizons-Upward Bound, Focus: Hope and the National Recreation Foundation.

Joseph Anderson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 6, 2005 and on June 11, 2010.

Related Entries

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

East Topeka Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Topeka High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

United States Military Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

University of California, Los Angeles [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Army Command and General Staff College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harvard Business School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

United States Army [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1965 to 1978]

Major

White House [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1979]

White House Fellow

General Motors [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to 1992]

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Composite Energy Management Systems, Incorporated [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1992 to ?]

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Chivas Products Limited [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to 2002]

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

TAG Holdings, LLC [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2002 to ?]

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Quaker Chemical Corporation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

ArvinMeritor, Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Sierra Pacific Resources [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Rite Aid Corporation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Valassis [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Society of Automotive Engineers Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

Society of Automotive Engineers International [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

National Association of Black Automotive Suppliers [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Executive Committee

Horizons-Upward Bound [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

Focus: HOPE [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors