

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Steen Miles

PERSON

Miles, Steen, 1946-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Steen Miles;

Life Dates: August 20, 1946-March 29, 2017

Place of Birth: South Bend, Indiana, USA

Residence: Decatur, GA

Occupations: Journalist

Biographical Note

Politician and journalist Steen Miles was born on August 20, 1946 in South Bend, Indiana to Rose and Austin Davis, a pastor. Miles graduated from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where she studied business education and English. She also attended Indiana University at South Bend, the University of Cincinnati, Georgia State University, and received certification from the University of South Carolina's Daniel School of Management.

Miles began her journalism career in 1971, as a reporter/anchor for WNDU-TV in South Bend, Indiana. She then worked for WCKY Radio in Cincinnati, NBC's WMAQ Radio in Chicago, and as news director for WBMX and WVON-WGCI in Chicago. From 1980 to 1984, she was State Broadcast Editor for United Press International in Atlanta, Georgia before joining WXIA-TV, the Atlanta NBC affiliate, where she served as assignment editor, managing editor and reporter-anchor from 1984 to 1999. In 2001, Miles was hired as chief media relations officer for Atlanta's Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), and served as the agency's primary spokesperson. In 2003, she hosted the talk show "Faith in the City Forum," a discussion of current events and public policy from diverse faith perspectives. In 2005, Miles was elected to the Georgia State Senate serving District 43. While in the Senate, she wrote and/or co-sponsored seventy-one pieces of legislation and resolutions. Miles ran for Lieutenant Governor of Georgia in 2006, and in 2008, became a contributing columnist to The Champion Newspaper. She is a candidate in the 2014 elections for U.S. Senate.

During her esteemed career, Miles has been recognized with over 275 awards and honors from businesses, government, civic organizations, Greek organizations, churches, schools and universities. She has won three Emmy Awards and received four Emmy nominations. In 2012, Miles was awarded the 1st Place Editorial Writing Award

by the Georgia Press Association, and in 2013, she was honored by 4th District Congressman Hank Johnson with an Outstanding Citizen Citation. In 1996, Miles was awarded the coveted Pioneer Journalist of the Year by the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists. She was an SCLC Women Mentor with the late Evelyn Lowery, and was featured in Who's Who in Black Atlanta. Miles was invited twice to the White House as part of a select group of national journalists, and invited by the Speaker of the House to attend the ceremony where Nelson Mandela received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1998. In 2006, she was honored with the Keys to the City of South Bend, Indiana, her hometown.

Miles was a 2002 graduate of Leadership DeKalb and served on its board. She was also a 2005 graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute. In addition, Miles was an associate minister at the Greenforest Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia. Her childhood memoir, *Teenie: Newslady in Training*, was published in 2007.

Miles lived in Decatur, and has two adult children, Kellie and Heather, and two grandchildren, William and Kellea.

Steen Miles was interviewed by The History Makers on February 17, 2014.

Miles passed away on March 29, 2017.

Related Entries

Franklin Elementary [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

James Whitcomb Riley [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

South Bend Central High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ball State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Indiana University at South Bend [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Cincinnati [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Georgia State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

WNDU - AM&FM [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1971]

Disc Jockey/Pt. Time

WNDU-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to 1972]

Reporter

WNDU-TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1972 to 1974]

Reporter/Anchor

WMAQ Radio (NBC owned and operated) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1974 to 1977]

Reporter/Anchor

WBMX Radio [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1977 to 1978]

News Director

WGCI (Gannett Corp) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1978 to 1980]

News Director

United Press International [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1981 to 1984]

Georgia State Broadcast Editor

WXIA-TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1984 to 1986]

Assignment Editor

WXIA-TV [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1986 to 1989]

Managing Editor

Faith and the City Forum [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to 2010]

Talk Show Host

Champion Newspaper [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Contributing Columnist

Lt. Governor State of Georgia election [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200604 to 200607]

Political Candidate

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200112 to 200401]

Chief Media Relations Officer

Georgia State Senate [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200401 to 200501]

Political Candidate

Georgia State Senate [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200501 to 200701]

State Senator

DeKalb County, Georgia [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199907 to 2000]

Political Candidate - Chief Executive Officer

WCKY Radio [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 197205 to 197208]

Reporter/Anchor

WXIA 11Alive (NBC Affiliate) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 198911 to 199907]

Reporter/Anchor