

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Samuel Howard

PERSON

Howard, Samuel H., 1939-

**Alternative Names:** Samuel Howard;

**Life Dates:** May 8, 1939-July 10, 2020

**Place of Birth:** Marietta, Oklahoma, USA

**Residence:** Nashville, TN

**Occupations:** Corporate Executive

## Biographical Note

Corporate executive Samuel Houston Howard was born on May 8, 1939 in Marietta, Oklahoma to Houston and Nellie Gaines Howard. Howard received his B.S. degree in business administration from Oklahoma State University in 1961, and his M.A. degree in economics from Stanford University in 1963.

From 1963 to 1967, Howard worked as a financial analyst with General Electric Company. In 1966 and 1967, he served as a White House Fellow and assistant to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg. From 1967 to 1968, Howard worked as director of educational computer services at Howard University and as a consultant to the U.S. Health, Education, and Welfare Department. He was then named vice president of finance, secretary and treasurer of TAW International Leasing Corporation, where he worked from 1968 until 1972. In 1972, he founded and served as chairman, president and CEO of Phoenix Holdings, Inc. and Phoenix Communications Group, Inc., which owned and operated broadcasting properties in Tennessee, Kansas and Mississippi.

Howard was hired as vice president of finance and business at Meharry Medical College in 1973. He then joined Hospital Affiliates International, Inc. as vice president of planning of the INA Health Care Group in 1977, and was promoted to vice president and treasurer in December of 1980. Howard was hired by Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) as vice president and treasurer in 1981, and was promoted to senior vice president of public affairs in October of 1985. He resigned from HCA in 1988 in order to chair Phoenix Holdings, Inc. fulltime. In 1993, Howard became chairman, president and CEO of Xantus Corporation, an investor owned company that owns and operates health maintenance organizations.

Howard has been a member, board director or committee member of numerous

organizations, including Southeast Community Capital; Nashville Electric Service; National Association of Corporate Directors; Nashville Chamber of Commerce; Federation of American Health Systems; Financial Executives Institute; National Easter Seal Society; National Urban League; Leadership Nashville Foundation; Project Reflect, Inc.; National Conference of Christians & Jews, Inc. (NCCJ); and United Way, among others. Howard was founder and director of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, chairman of the board of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee, and trustee of Fisk University. He served on the Governor's TennCare Roundtable in 1995 and the Boy Scouts Inner City Task Force Committee in 1988.

Howard was inducted into the Oklahoma State University School of Business Hall of Fame in 1983, and received the 1980 and 1984 Federation of American Hospitals President's Achievement Award. In 1994, he received the Nashville NAACP Branch Image Award for Lifetime Achievement and the NCCJ Human Relations Award. Howard received the Outstanding CEO Award among the 100 largest privately-held businesses in Nashville in 1997 and the Nashville Business Journal's 1995 Small Business Executive of the Year Award. He was honored as Nashvillian of the Year in 1998 by the Easter Seal Society of Tennessee and as Philanthropist of the Year in 1997 by the National Society of Fundraising Executives. In 2010, Howard received the White House Fellows John W. Gardner Legacy of Leadership Award.

Howard is the author of *The Flight of the Phoenix: Thoughts on Work and Life*, published in 2007.

Samuel H. Howard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on April 24, 2014.

Howard passed away on July 10, 2020.

## Related Entries

**Oklahoma State University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Stanford University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**Douglass School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**General Electric Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1963 to 1967]

**Financial Analyst**

**United States Government** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1966 to 1967]

**White House Fellow and Assistant to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg**

**Howard University** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1967 to 1968]

**Director of Educational Computer Services**

**U.S. Health, Education, and Welfare Department** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1967 to 1968]

**Consultant**

**TAW International Leasing Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1968 to 1972]

**Vice President of Finance, Secretary and Treasurer**

**Phoenix Holdings, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1972 to ?]

**Founder, Chairman, President and CEO**

**Phoenix Communications Group** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1972 to ?]

**Founder, Chairman, President and CEO**

**Meharry Medical College** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1973 to 1977]

**Vice President of Finance and Business**

**Hospital Affiliates International, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1977 to 1980]

**Vice President of Planning, INA Health Care Group**

**Hospital Affiliates International, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1980 to 1981]

**Vice President and Treasurer, INA Health Care Group**

**Hospital Corporation of America** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1981 to 1985]

**Vice President and Treasurer**

**Hospital Corporation of America** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1985 to 1988]

**Senior Vice President of Public Affairs**

**Xantus Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1993 to ?]

**Chairman, President and CEO**

**Southeast Community Capital** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Nashville Electric Service** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Association of Corporate Directors** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Nashville Chamber of Commerce** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Federation of American Health Systems** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Financial Executives Institute** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Easter Seal Society** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Urban League** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Leadership Nashville Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Project Reflect, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**United Way** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Founder and Director**

**Urban League of Middle Tennessee** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Chairman of the Board**

**Fisk University** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Trustee**

**Boy Scouts Inner City Task Force Committee** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1988 to 1988]

**Member**

**Governor's TennCare Roundtable** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1995 to 1995]

**Member**