

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jean Boone

PERSON

Boone, Jean, 1943-

Alternative Names: Jean Boone;

Life Dates: March 14, 1943-

Place of Birth: Columbia, South Carolina, USA

Work: Richmond, VA

Occupations: Newspaper Publishing Executive

Biographical Note

Newspaper executive Jean Boone was born on March 14, 1943 in Columbia, South Carolina to Helen Patterson and Daniel Patterson. Boone graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia in 1960, and went on to earn her B.A. degree in sociology and anthropology from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1962. She then received her M.S. degree in social work in 1966 from Boston University.

After graduating from Boston University, Boone moved to Richmond, Virginia, where her husband, Raymond Boone, Sr., was editor of the Richmond Afro-American. She became an adjunct professor of education at Virginia Commonwealth University. She also worked as the associate director for housing and economic development for the Urban League of Richmond. In 1981, Boone joined the Children's Defense Fund as the director of state and local affairs, serving until 1989. In 1988, Boone also served as the manager of community affairs and marketing for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. When Boone's husband established Paradigm Communications, Inc. in 1991, Boone joined him as advertising director. The following year, Paradigm Communications, Inc. published the inaugural issue of the Richmond Free Press on January 16, 1992. Boone was named publisher of the Richmond Free Press in late June 2014 by the board of directors of Paradigm Communications, Inc. after her husband's death.

Under the leadership of Boone and her late husband, the Richmond Free Press' accomplishments were recognized by the Virginia Press Association, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the NAACP and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus. In 2001, the newspaper was the recipient of the Best in Commercial Renovation Award in recognition of its leadership during a downtown revitalization project. Boone was honored by the YWCA of Greater Richmond with the 2004 Outstanding Women in Communications Award and at

Hattitude 2016: Hats Off to Women, which was hosted by the American Business Women's Association. Boone served on the board of Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.

Boone and her late husband, Raymond Boone, Sr., had two children, Regina and Raymond Jr., and a grandson named Raymond III.

Jean Boone was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 9, 2016.

Related Entries

Dillard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

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

C. A. Johnson High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bennett College for Women [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Boston University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

United South End Settlements [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to 1966]

Social Worker

Greater Washington Urban League [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1965 to 1967]

Intern

Greater Richmond Urban League [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1969]

Associate Director

Virginia Commonwealth University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1977]

Professor

Baltimore Blueprint [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to 1981]

Children's Defense Fund [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to 1989]

Director of State and Local Affairs

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1988 to 1991]

Manager of Community Affairs and Marketing

Richmond Free Press [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1991 to ?]

Advertising Director, Owner

Paradigm Communications [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

President, Board of Directors

Carter Center [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Secretary of the Board

Richmond Performing Arts Center [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board