

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jerry Harkness

PERSON

Harkness, Jerry, 1940-

**Alternative Names:** Jerry Harkness;

**Life Dates:** May 7, 1940-August 24, 2021

**Place of Birth:** New York, New York, USA

**Residence:** Indianapolis, IN

**Occupations:** Basketball Player

## Biographical Note

Born in May 1940 in Harlem, New York, Jerry Harkness is an athlete of natural talents. As a student, he played every sport imaginable; however, when Jerry Harkness joined the basketball team at DeWitt Clinton High, his ability on the court became apparent. While attending Loyola University, his performance on the basketball court made sports history as Jerry Harkness led the team in scoring for three consecutive years. Nearly forty years after ending his collegiate basketball career, the 1,749 points he scored still remains the third highest in Loyola's history. As team captain in 1963, he led Loyola to the National Championship and was named the NCAA's Most Valuable Player.

Upon his graduation, Jerry Harkness decided to join the New York Knicks. In 1967, he was traded to the Indiana Pacers. Two years later, Jerry Harkness became a sportscaster in Indianapolis.

He also devoted much of his time to civil rights issues, by serving with the Indiana Human Rights Commission and working actively with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Currently, Jerry serves as Executive Director of the Indianapolis Chapter of 100 Black Men.

Harkness passed away on August 24, 2021.

## Related Entries

**DeWitt Clinton High School** [STUDENT OF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Loyola University Chicago** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**New York Knicks** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1963 to 1964]

**Basketball Player**

**Indiana Pacers** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1998 to 1999]

**Basketball Player**

**WTHR News Channel 13** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to 1982]

**Sportscaster**

**United Way of Greater Indiana** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1970 to 1995]

**Fundraiser**

**Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1969 to 1973]

**Volunteer**

**The Indiana Black Expo** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1970 to 1972]

**Co-Founder, Organizer**

**Indian People's Human Rights Commission** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1971 to 1975]

**Commissioner**

**100 Black Men** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1985 to 1988]

**Volunteer**