

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James Kaiser

PERSON

Kaiser, James, 1943-

Alternative Names: James Kaiser; Jim Gordon Kaiser

Life Dates: February 28, 1943-

Place of Birth: St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Residence: Highlands Ranch, CO

Occupations: Corporate Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, James Kaiser, after the death of his father, moved to California with his mother and brother. This change of circumstances caused some lean financial years for the Kaiser family. During that time, his mother worked to help desegregate the Catholic schools in California. She counted Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, as one of the family friends.

After high school, where he lettered in football, Kaiser attended and graduated from UCLA in 1966 with a degree in political science. After graduation he entered the Navy and served two tours in Vietnam, earning the Navy achievement medal. After being discharged, Jim Kaiser married Kathryn Mounday and began a career in business. Corporate America made fertile ground for this bright and aggressive African American. Joining Corning Glass Works as a sales representative, he rose through the ranks. In 1986, Jim became a Senior VP at Corning with management responsibilities in the US, Asia and Latin America. He then became President of one of Corning Glass' divisions, Enseco, Inc., in 1992 at age 49. Kaiser currently serves on the board of directors of several major corporations, including Sunoco, and owns a Lexus dealership in Memphis, Tennessee. He splits his time between Denver and Memphis.

Related Entries

St. Gregory's Catholic School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Thomas Starr King Junior High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

John Marshall High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

University of California, Los Angeles [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Massachusetts Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Avenir Partners, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199812 to ?]

Corning Incorporated [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 19680804 to 19960301]