

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bernard Kinsey

PERSON

Kinsey, Bernard, 1943--

Alternative Names: Bernard Kinsey; Bernard W. Kinsey

Life Dates: September 20, 1943-

Place of Birth: West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

Residence: Pacific Palisades, CA

Work: Pacific Palisades, CA

Occupations: Corporate Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Bernard Kinsey was born on September 20, 1943 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Following in his family's tradition, he attended Florida A&M University. There, he met his wife Shirley. After graduating from Florida A&M University in 1967, he was hired as the first African American sales representative for Humble Oil Company, then a part of the Exxon Corporation. The job brought Kinsey and his wife to South Central Los Angeles. Kinsey was immediately successful and quickly became Humble Oil's number one sales representative.

In 1971, Kinsey left Humble Oil to join Xerox Corporation as a field service manager. Again, he proved to be highly successful and within his first nine months rose to number one. During that same year, Kinsey and a group of African American Xerox employees protested the promotion of a less qualified white employee over an African American with supervisory experience and a college degree. Xerox promoted the African American employee. This action resulted in the creation of the Xerox Black Employees Organization, which Kinsey co-founded.

Kinsey became a vice president of Xerox within ten years. He holds the distinction of achieving number one status nationally in every sales and marketing position he held from 1968 to 1984. Kinsey also worked to create a program for bringing African Americans and other minorities into the company and training them for jobs with opportunities for advancement.

In 1991, Kinsey left Xerox and in 1992, he became the chief operating officer and co-chairman of Rebuild Los Angeles (RLA), under Peter Ueberroth. RLA's mission was to

bring jobs, economic opportunities and pride to the area that had been devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. While leading the revitalization efforts, Kinsey succeeded in generating more than \$380 million dollars in investments for inner city Los Angeles. Kinsey also worked to bring grocery stores, loan funds, pharmacies, hardware stores, and other retail outlets to the community.

Kinsey currently serves as president of KBK Enterprises, a management consulting firm. He is a recognized expert and leader in the field of urban revitalization and economic development and has counseled the governments of South Africa, Germany, England, Israel, and France.

Related Entries

Roosevelt High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bachelor's

Pepperdine University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Master Business Administration, Finance

Roosevelt Community Middle School for Math, Science and Technology [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

U.B. Kinsey/Palm View Elementary School for the Arts [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

KBK Enterprises, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

President

Humble Oil and Refining Company [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1967 to 1971]

Sales Representative

Xerox Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to 1991]

Vice President

Rebuild L.A. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 1994]

Chief Operating Officer

