

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard Pegue

PERSON

Pegue, Richard, 1943-

Alternative Names: Richard Pegue;

Life Dates: July 29, 1943-March 3, 2009

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: South Holland, Illinois

Occupations: Radio Personality; Radio Program Director

Biographical Note

Richard Pegue was born on July 29, 1943, in Chicago to a beautician and a policeman. His father died in the line of duty when he was only two years old. Pegue would go on to develop a strong career in radio.

This career began at age eleven, when Pegue's grandmother gave him a reel-to-reel tape recorder for his birthday. By sixteen, he was using his recorder to D.J. at dances at South Side schools. He even formed a doo-wop group, the Belvederes, at Hirsch High School. After graduating in 1961, Pegue worked bagging groceries at Del Farm Foods and selling records at Met Music. While working both jobs, Pegue still found time to attend radio broadcasting classes at Columbia College.

Pegue continued performing doo-wop with a group called the Norvells. In 1965, Pegue wrote and produced "I'm Not Ready to Settle Down." Performed by the Cheers, the song still enjoys radio airplay today. In 1968, he became the music director at WVON Radio. When WVON was sold in 1975, Pegue found work at various radio stations in Chicago and Northwest Indiana, including WOPA and WGCI, where he worked as a program director and fill-in disc jockey. In 1987, he returned to WGCI and facilitated a popular format change to urban oldies, or dusties. He stayed with the station for thirteen years. Then in 1993, Pegue began appearing every Friday at a Chicago dance club called Taste Entertainment, where he developed a following. In 1996, Pegue attended a movie theater with his wife, Sevina, and suffered a stroke. He spent six months recovering before recovering enough to work. In 2000, Pegue returned to WVON to spin his favorite tunes.

Pegue passed away on March 3, 2009 at the age of 66.

Related Entries

Frank L. Gillespie Technology Magnet Cluster School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Paul Cornell Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Hirsch Metropolitan High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Kennedy–King College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Columbia College Chicago [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Belvederes, The [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Delete [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Del Farm Grocery Store [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1961 to 1968]

Met Music record store [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1962 to 1968]

WVON Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1975]

REPCOM Advertising (his own company) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1970 to ?]

WOPA [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to 1977]

WJPC Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1981]

WGCI Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to 1985]

WBEE Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1986]

WVON Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1986 to 1987]

WGCI Radio [EMPLOYEE**Of**]
[from 1987 to 2000]

WVON Radio [EMPLOYEE**Of**]
[from 2000 to ?]